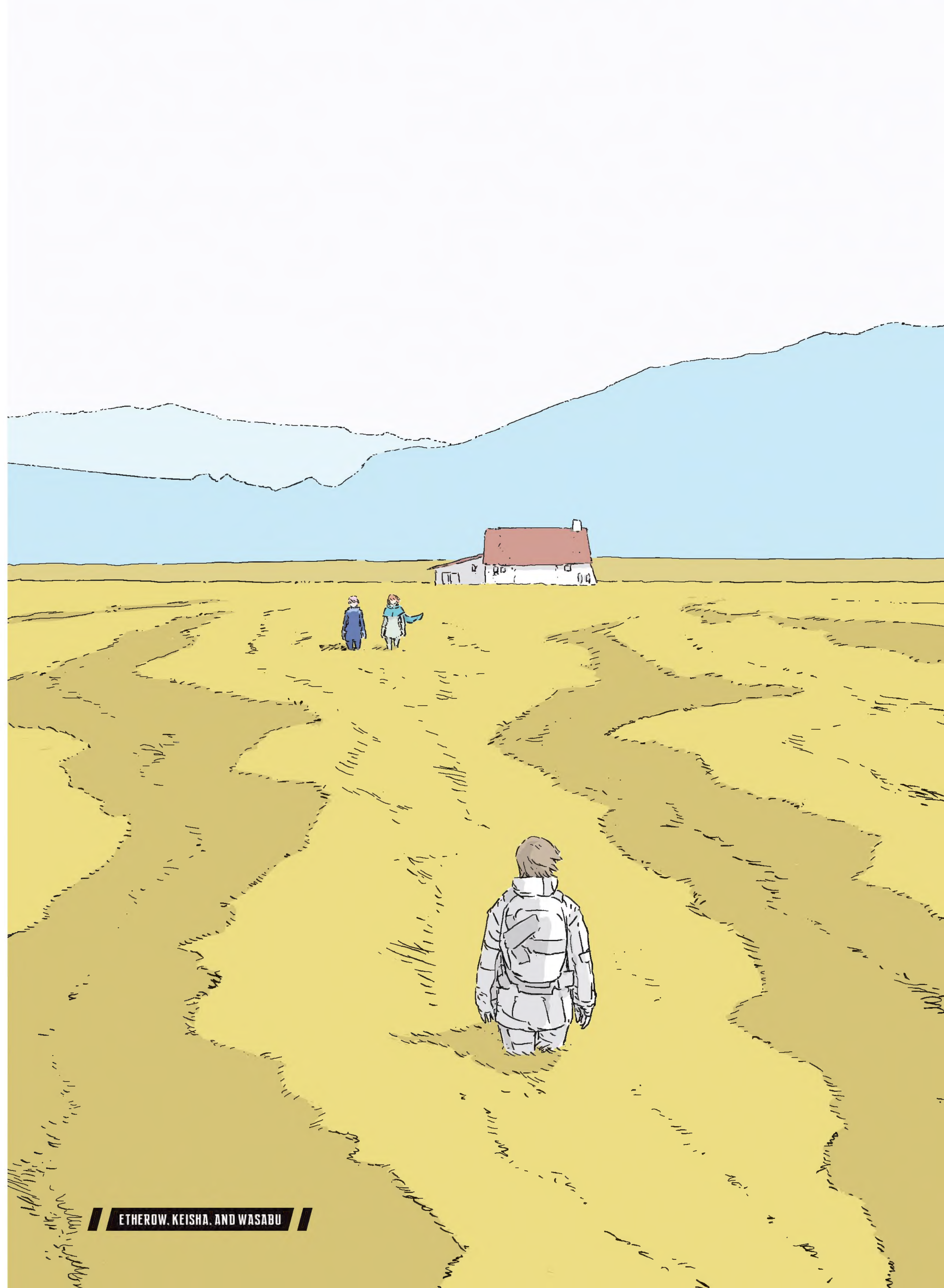
APOSIMZ

TSUTOMU
NIHEI

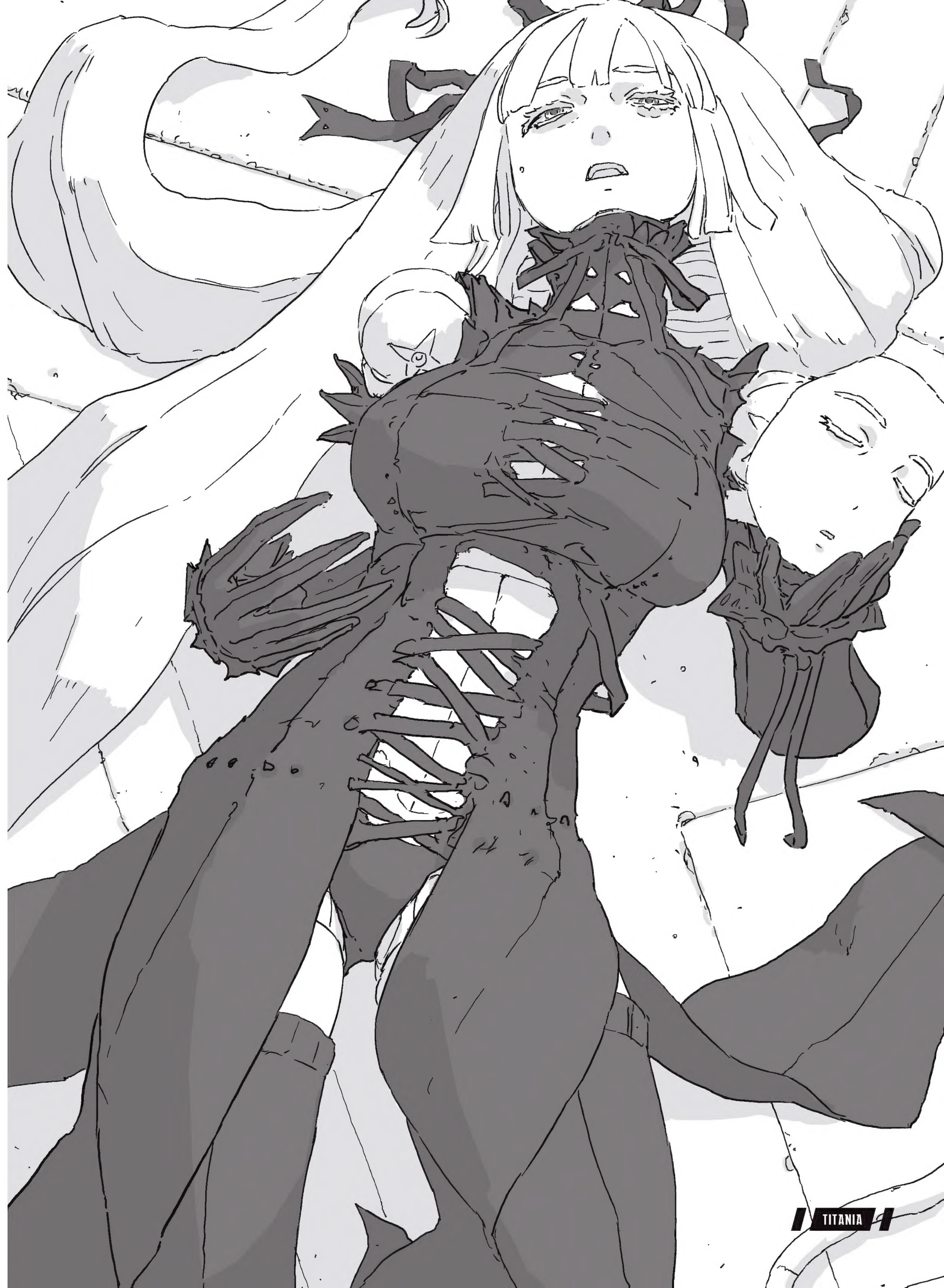
09

JATE



ETHEROW, KEISHA, AND WASABU

ETHEROW


TITANIA

APOSIMZ

09

TSUTOMU
NIHEI

PLOT AND CHARACTER INTRO

REBEDOAN EMPIRE

A militant state with powerful, heavily-armed forces that continues to invade various regions. Has many Regular Frames in its ranks.

NICHIKO SUOU

The Emperor of Rebedoa. Has the ability to predict the future.

JATE

A high-level Reincarnated of the Rebedoan Empire. Has the ability to manipulate Automatons.

TOSU

A high-level Reincarnated of the Rebedoan Empire. Has the ability to manipulate metal.

AJATE

A clone of Jate created via artificial Code. She looks like a giant version of Jate.

RINAI

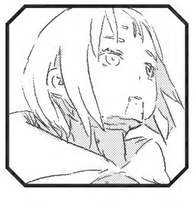
Reincarnated.
An old friend of Jate's.
Has the ability to transfer matter.

TRUE CORE CHURCH

Organization created by Kajiwan to gather those afflicted with Frame disease. Bestows certain sufferers with knowledge and power, turning them into "Regenerateds." Views both the Empire and humans as enemies.

KAJIWAN

The last King of Irf Nikk. Using the powers of the mysterious Frame created from Titania's stolen arm, he became a Regular Frame himself. Has the ability to produce fireballs.



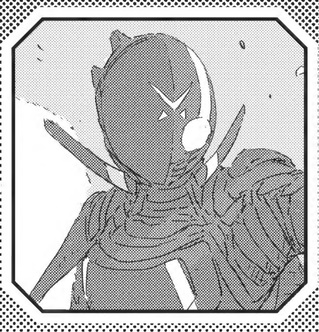
JINATA

Regenerated member of the True Core Church. Her only power is the ability to fight back against Regular Frames.

Previously

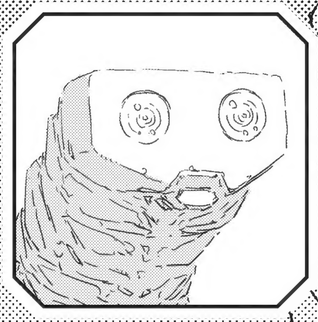
Imperial soldiers took Wasabu hostage in order to force Etherow to negotiate. However, Dokobu of the Execution Squad takes over their ship. When Etherow becomes distraught over his friend being captured, Titania—in a voice unlike any she has used before—tells Etherow she can grant him three wishes. But just then, Wasabu reappears, badly injured by the torture he endured at the hands of the Empire...

ETHEROW AND HIS PARTY



ETHEROW

Became a Regular Frame with Titania's help. Master marksman. Badly injured when Ume fell, but then recovered.



TITANIA

An Automaton with two forms. She is able to read the thoughts of humans and Frames via touch.

KEISHA

A Regular Frame who can manipulate electricity and uses an expandable staff. Sister of Kajiwan, leader of the True Core Church.

MUGUHOSHI

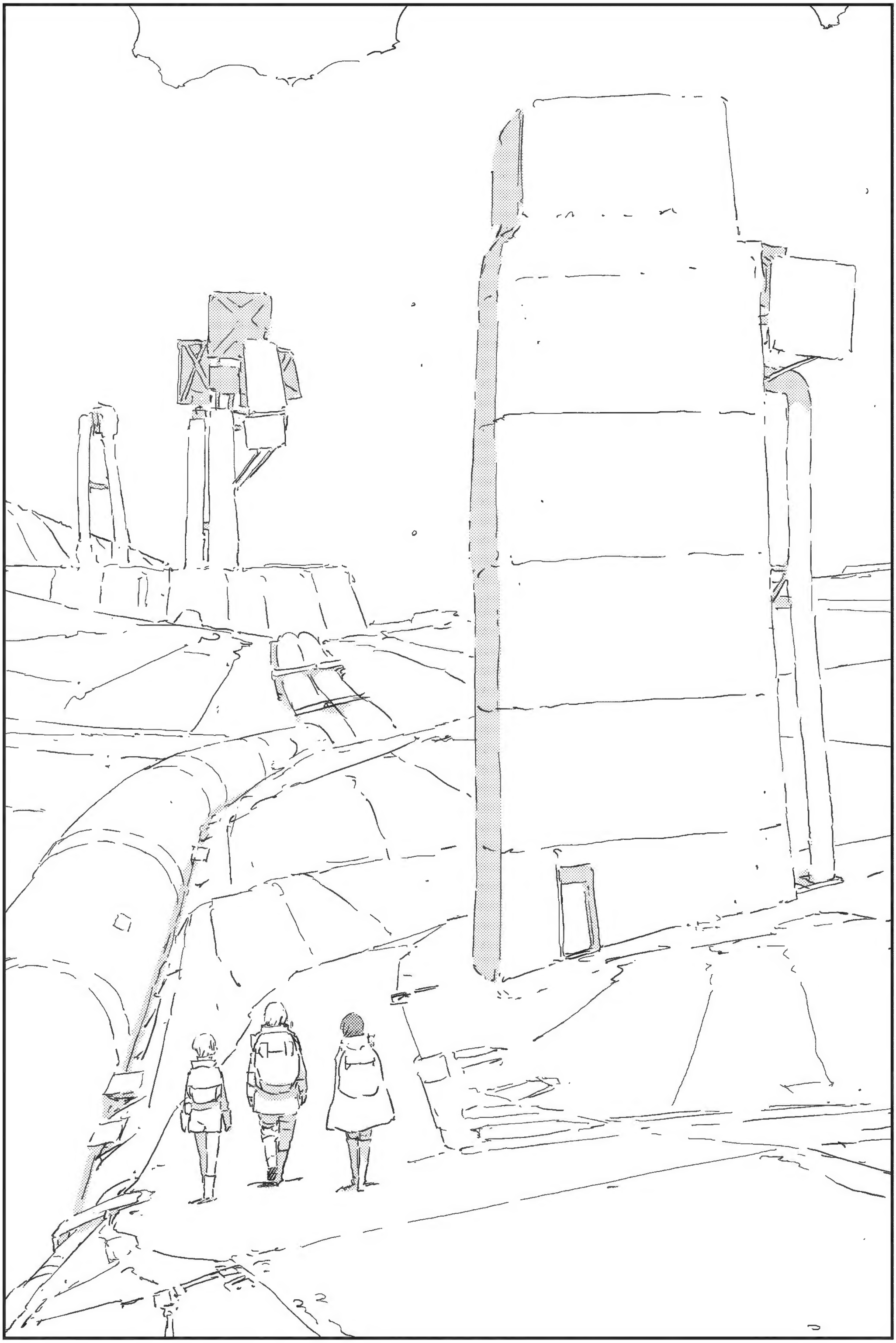
A collapsible Automaton. Very powerful with no apparent weak points, but can only activate its powers for short periods of time.

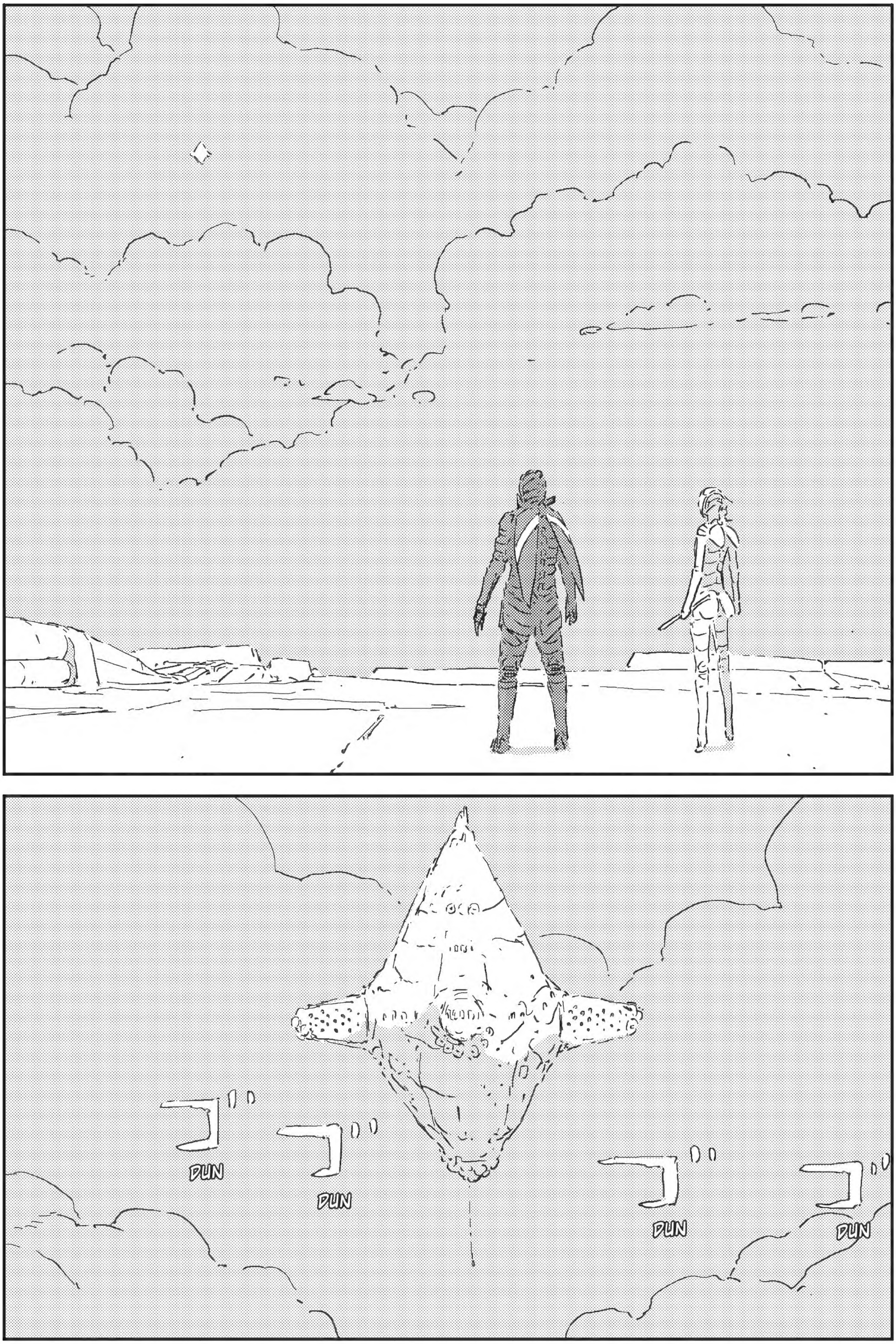
WASABU

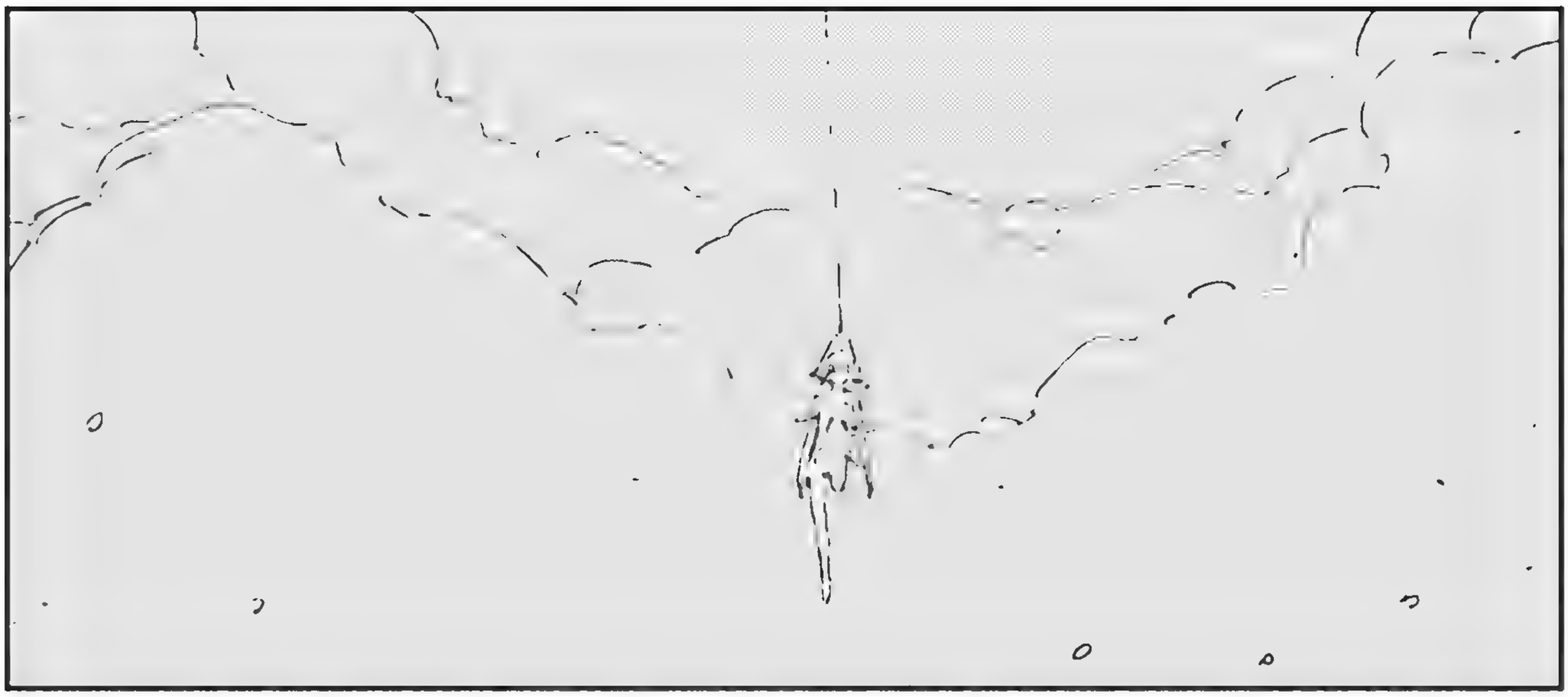
A Regular Frame who joined Etherow's party after the Empire's brainwashing wore off. Has the ability to fly.

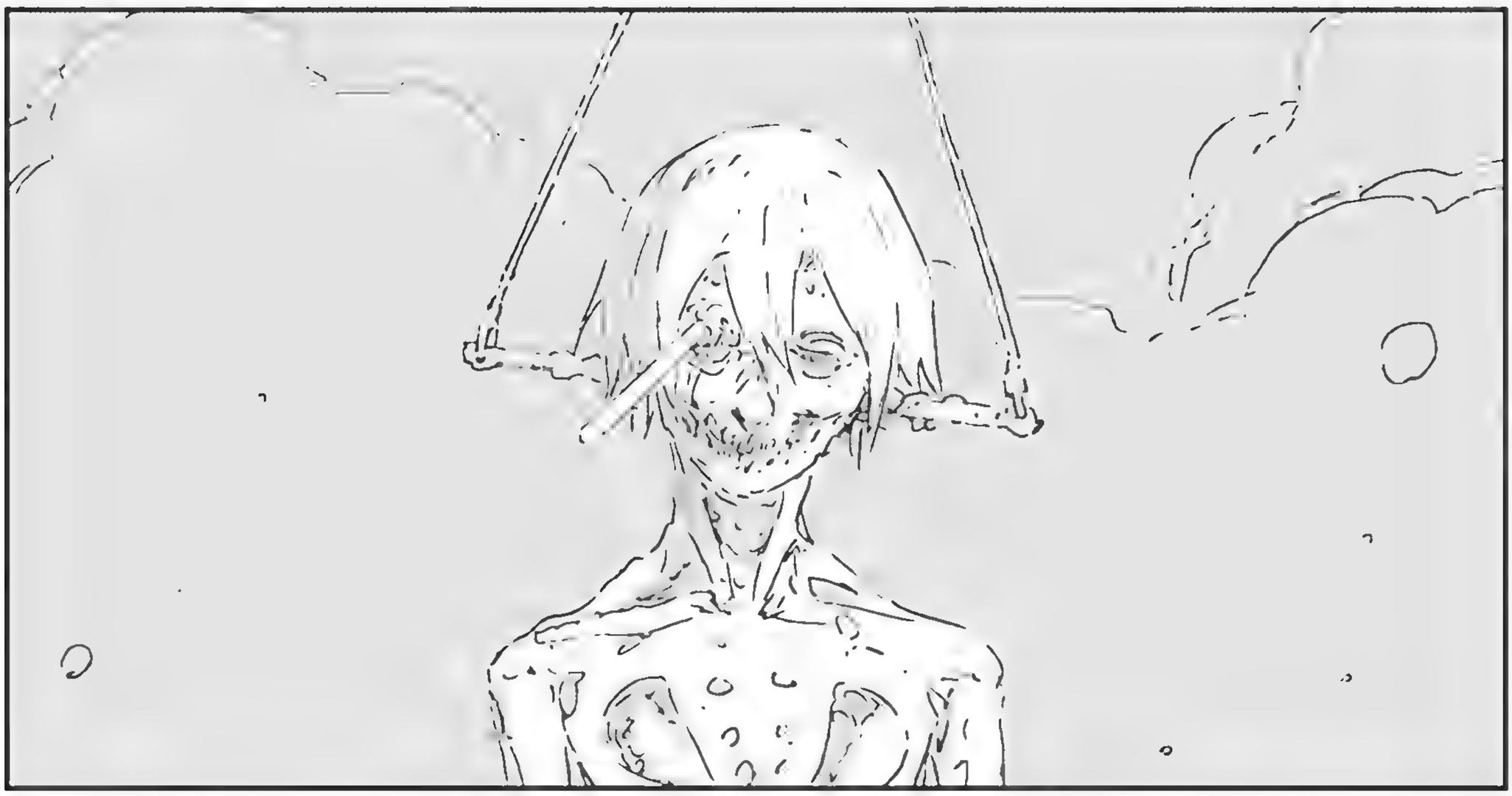
APOSIMZ

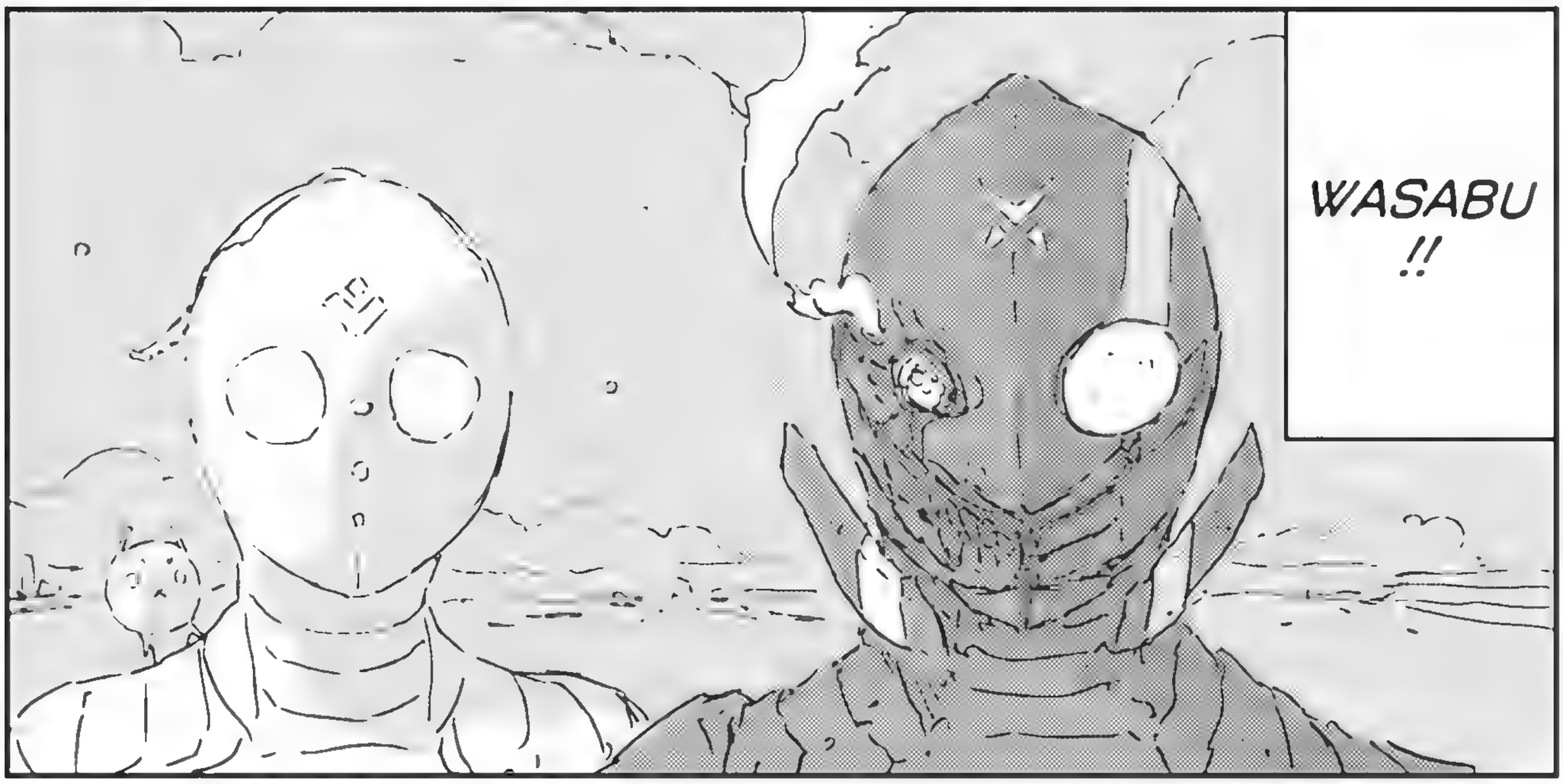
CHAPTER 49



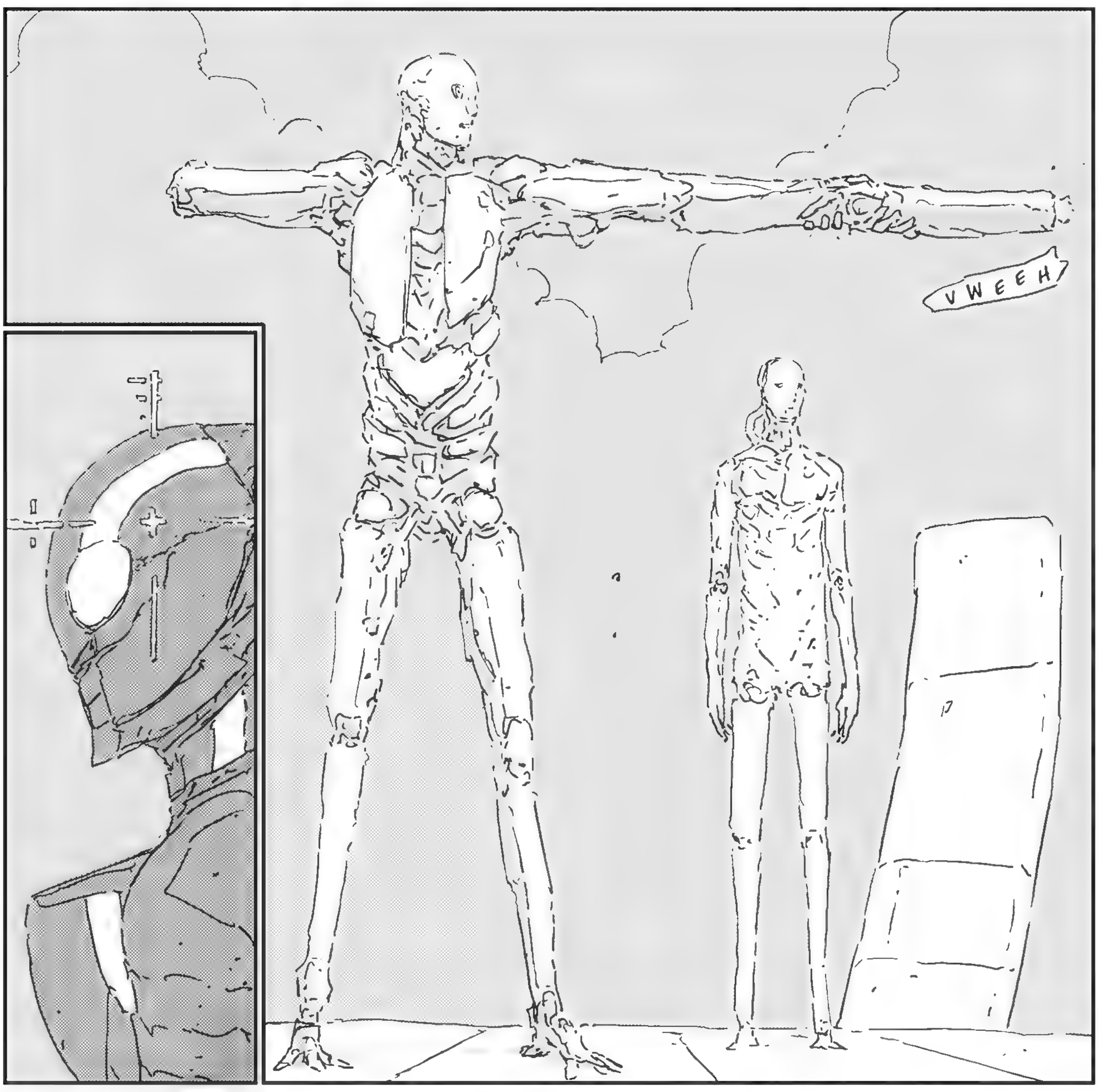

DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN



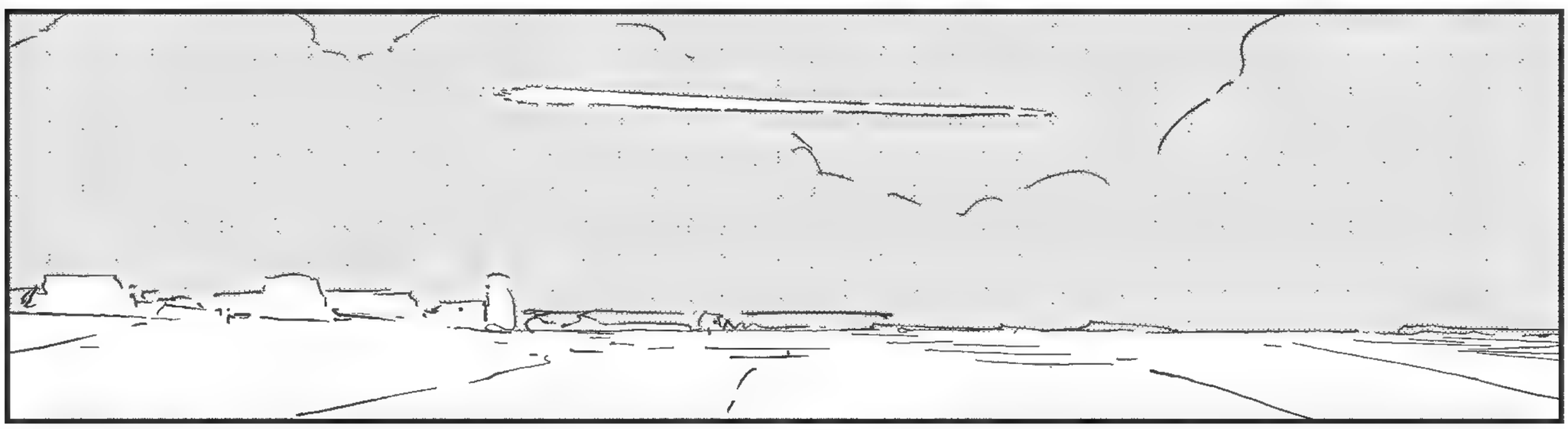


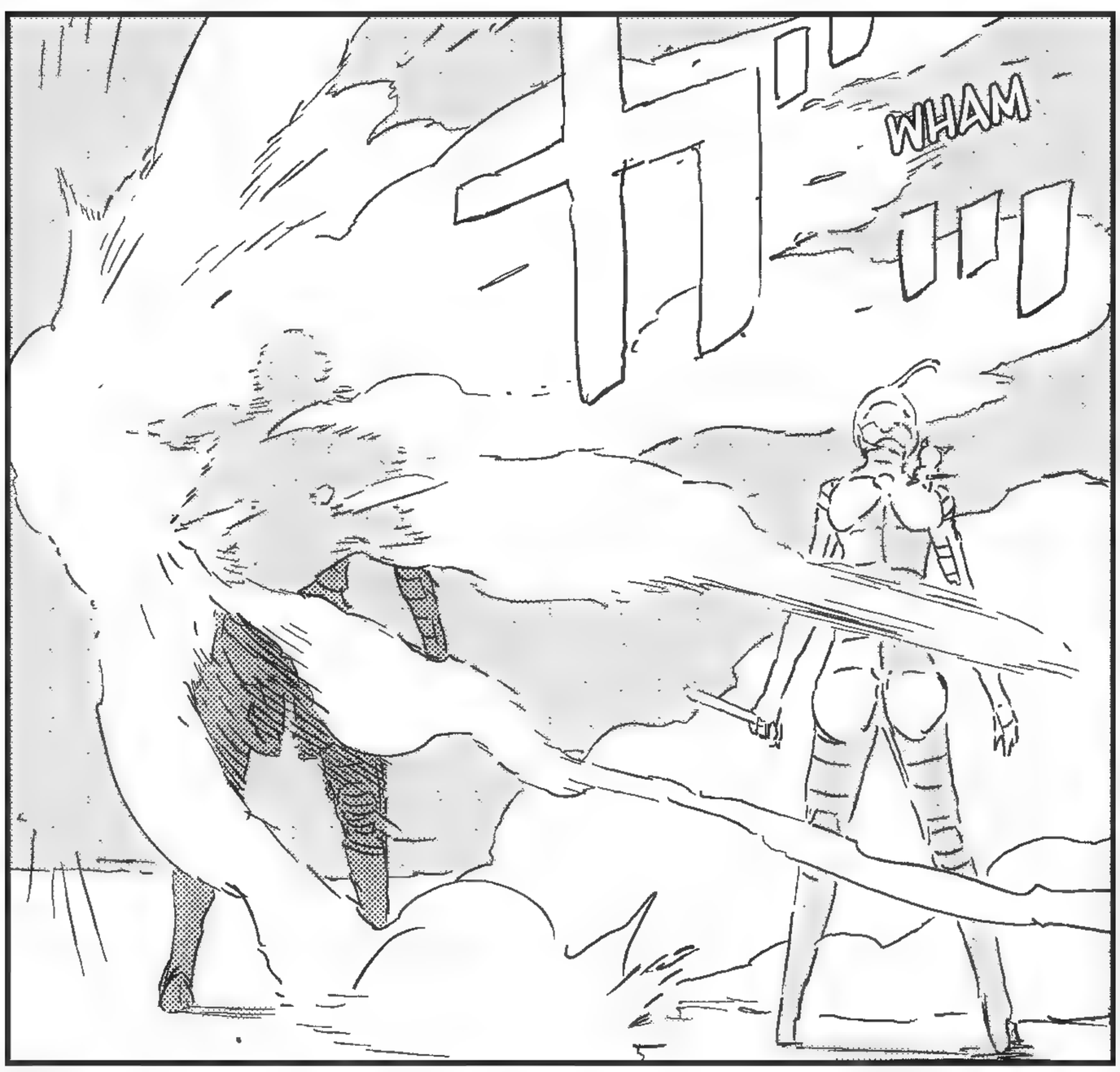

WASABU !!

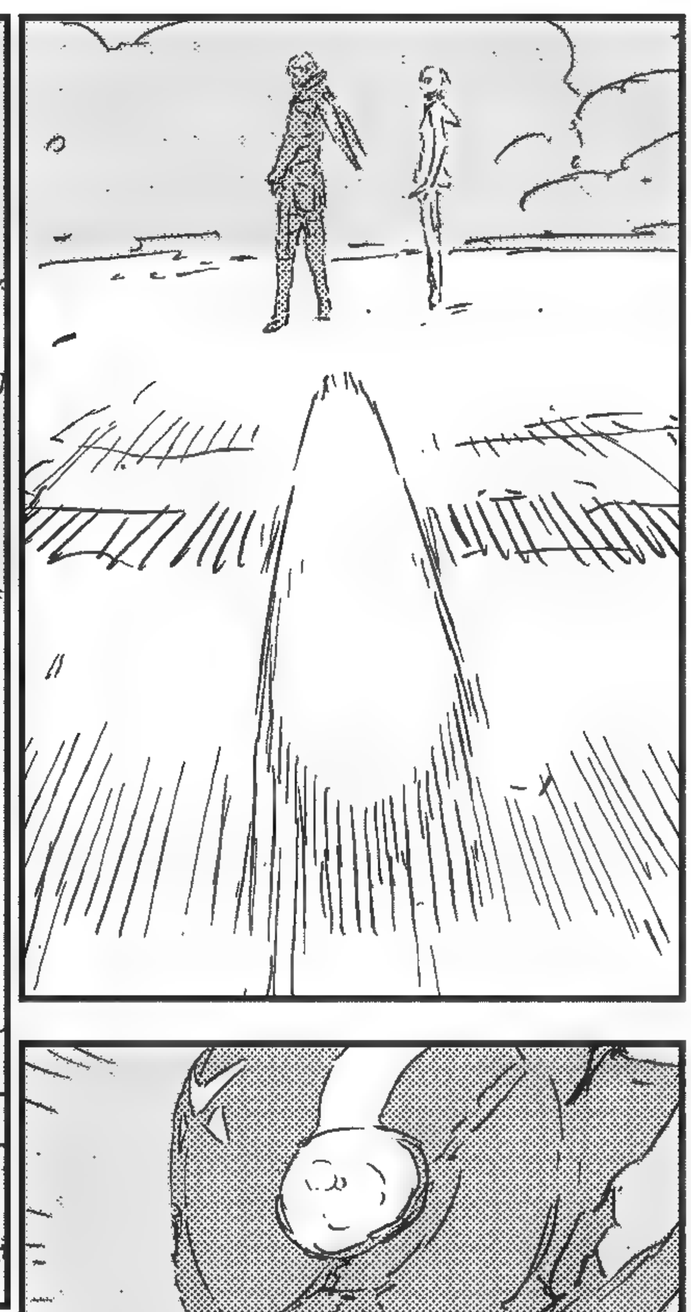
RRUMMMBLE


VWEEH

KAM




WHAM



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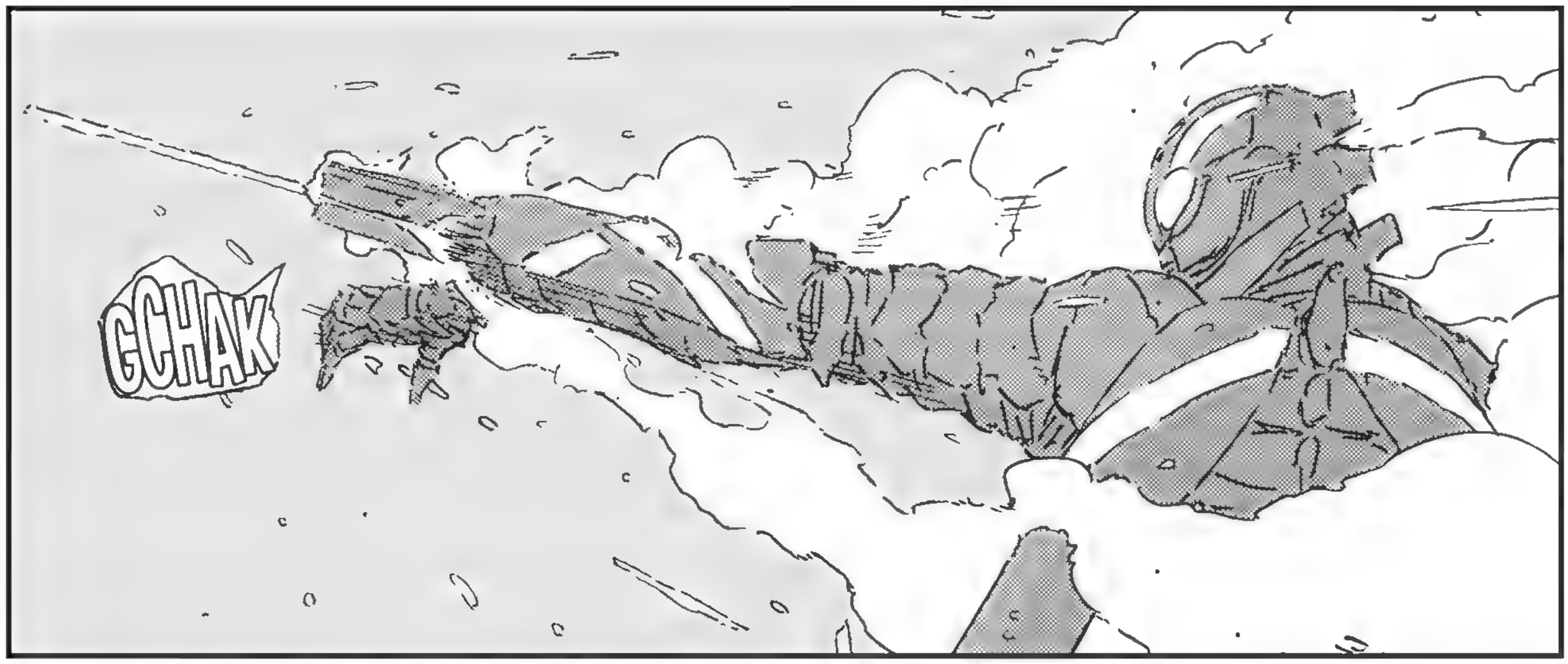
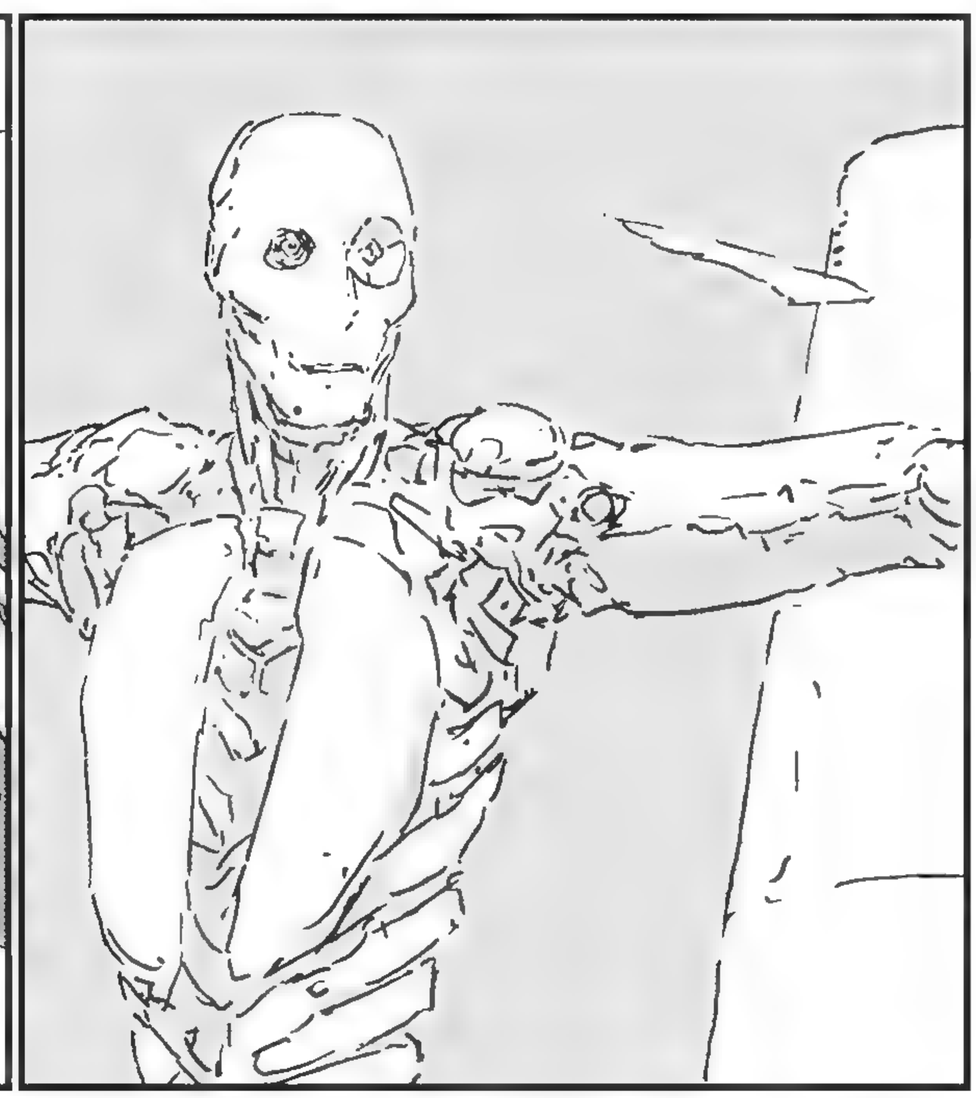
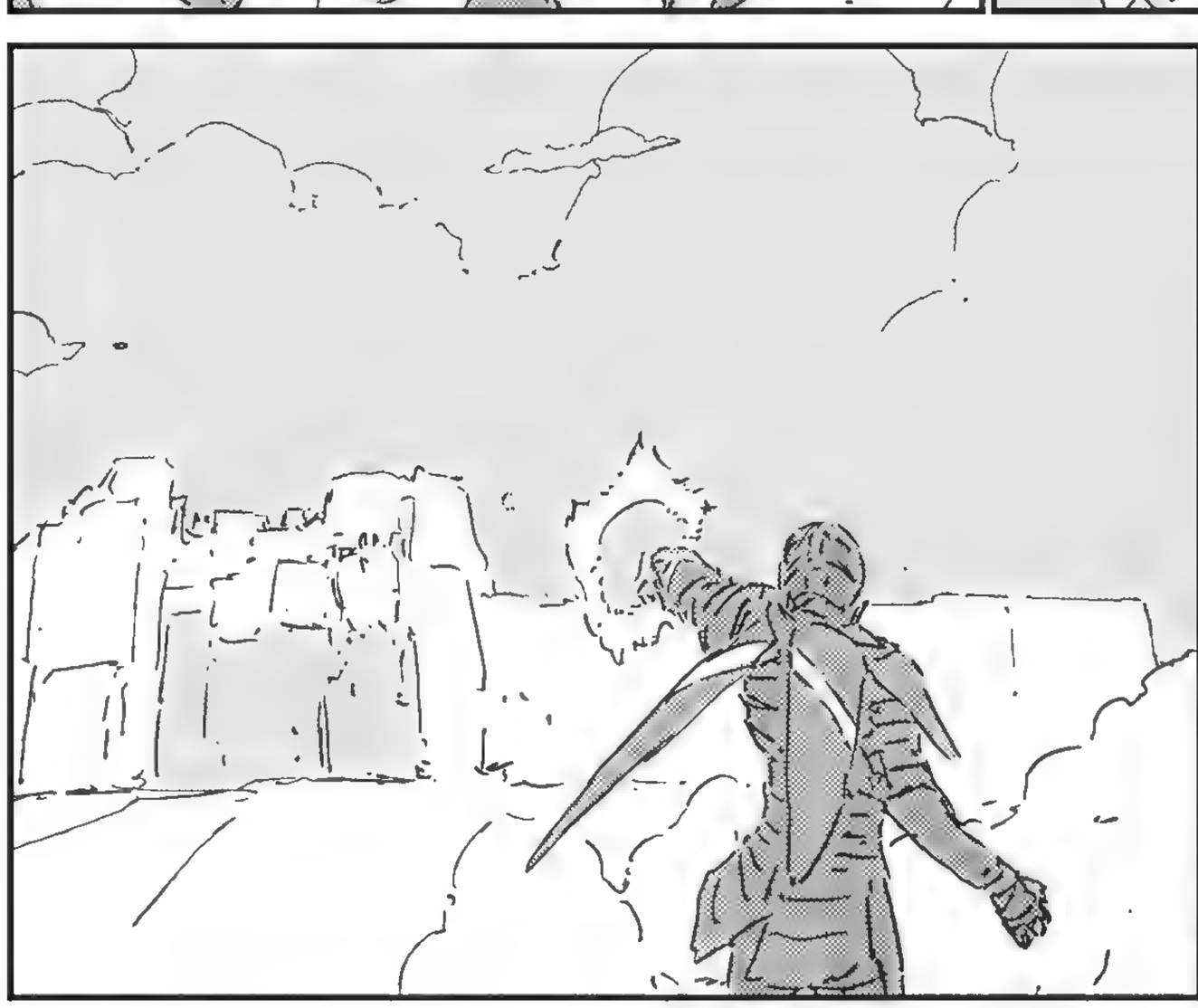
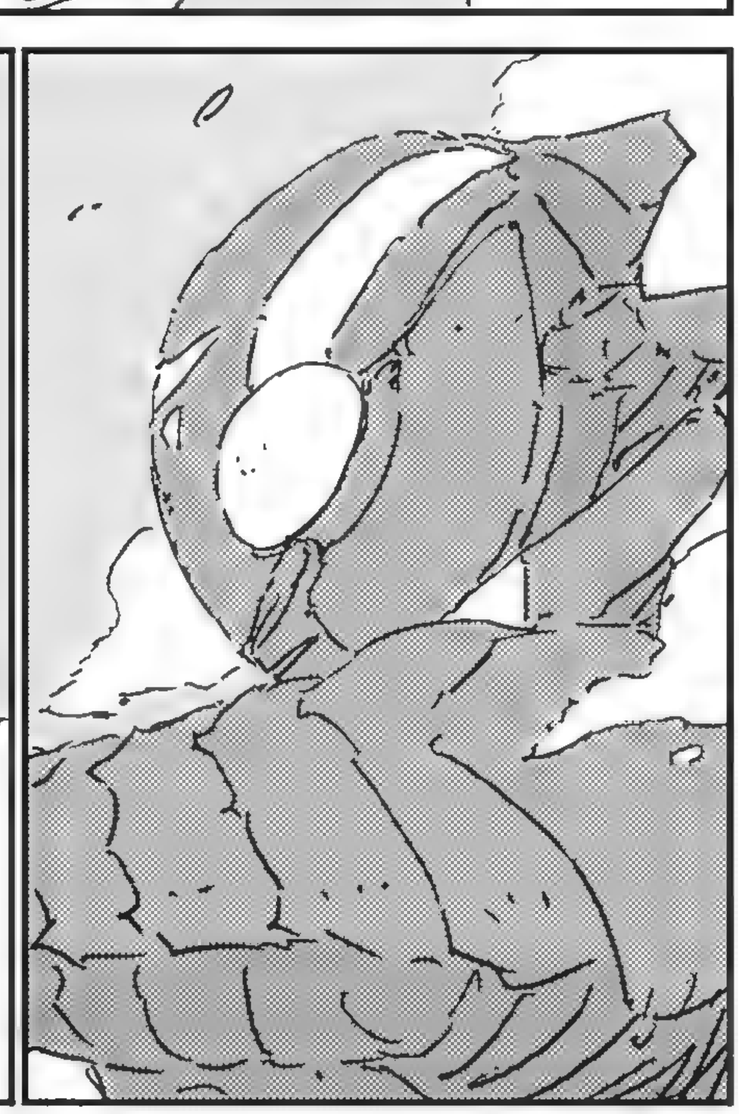
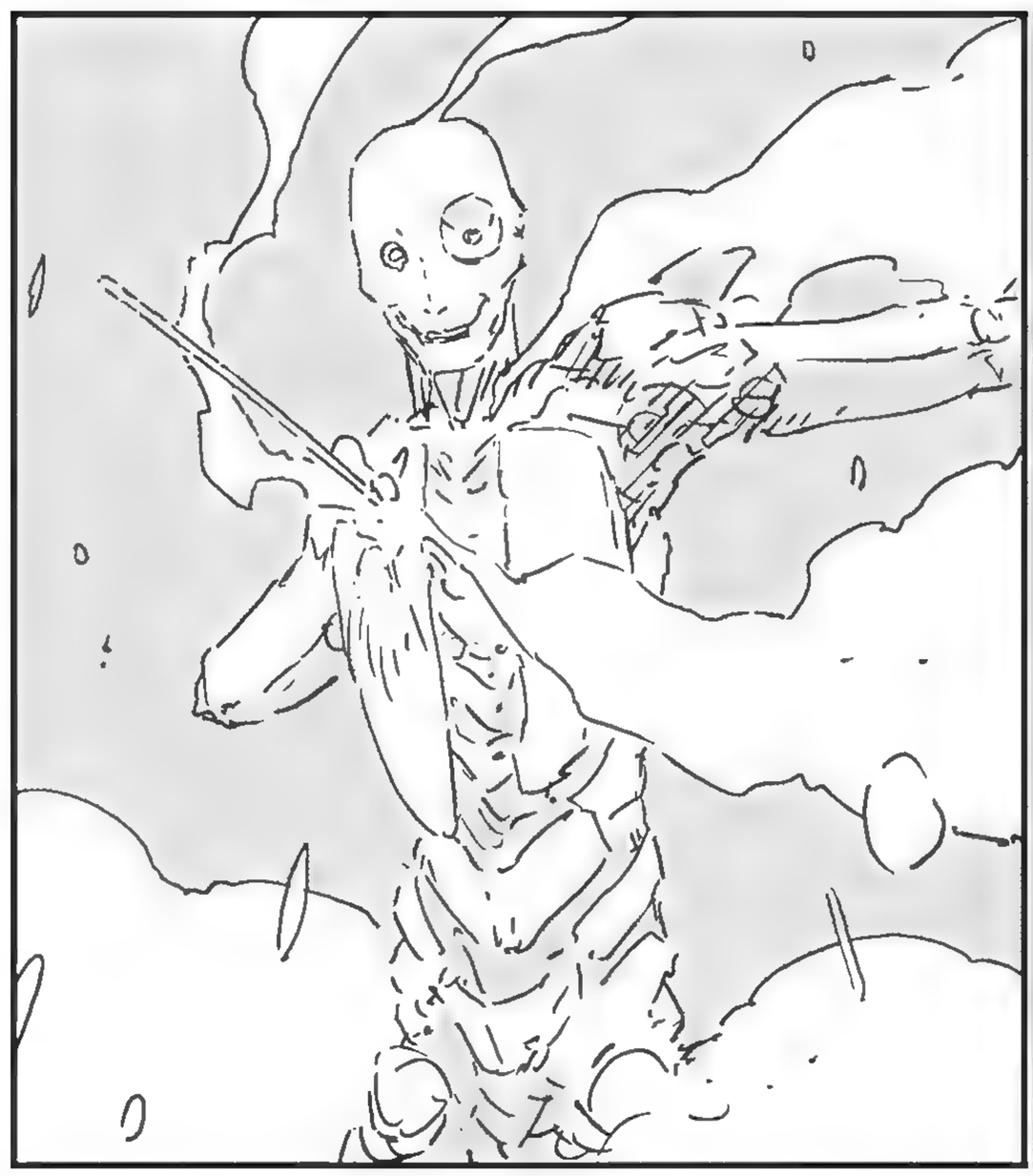

GCHAK

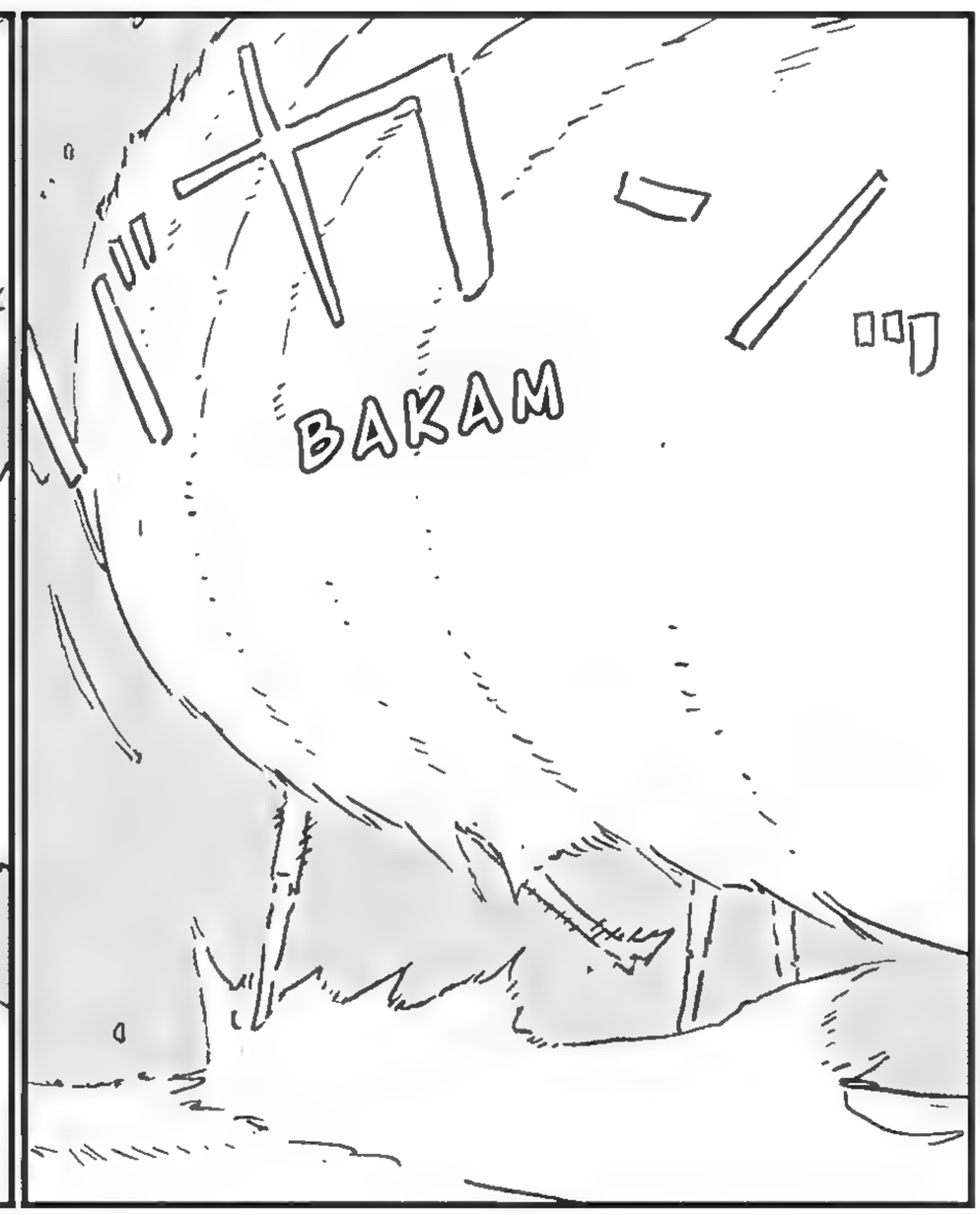
HE STOPPED THAT ARROW?!

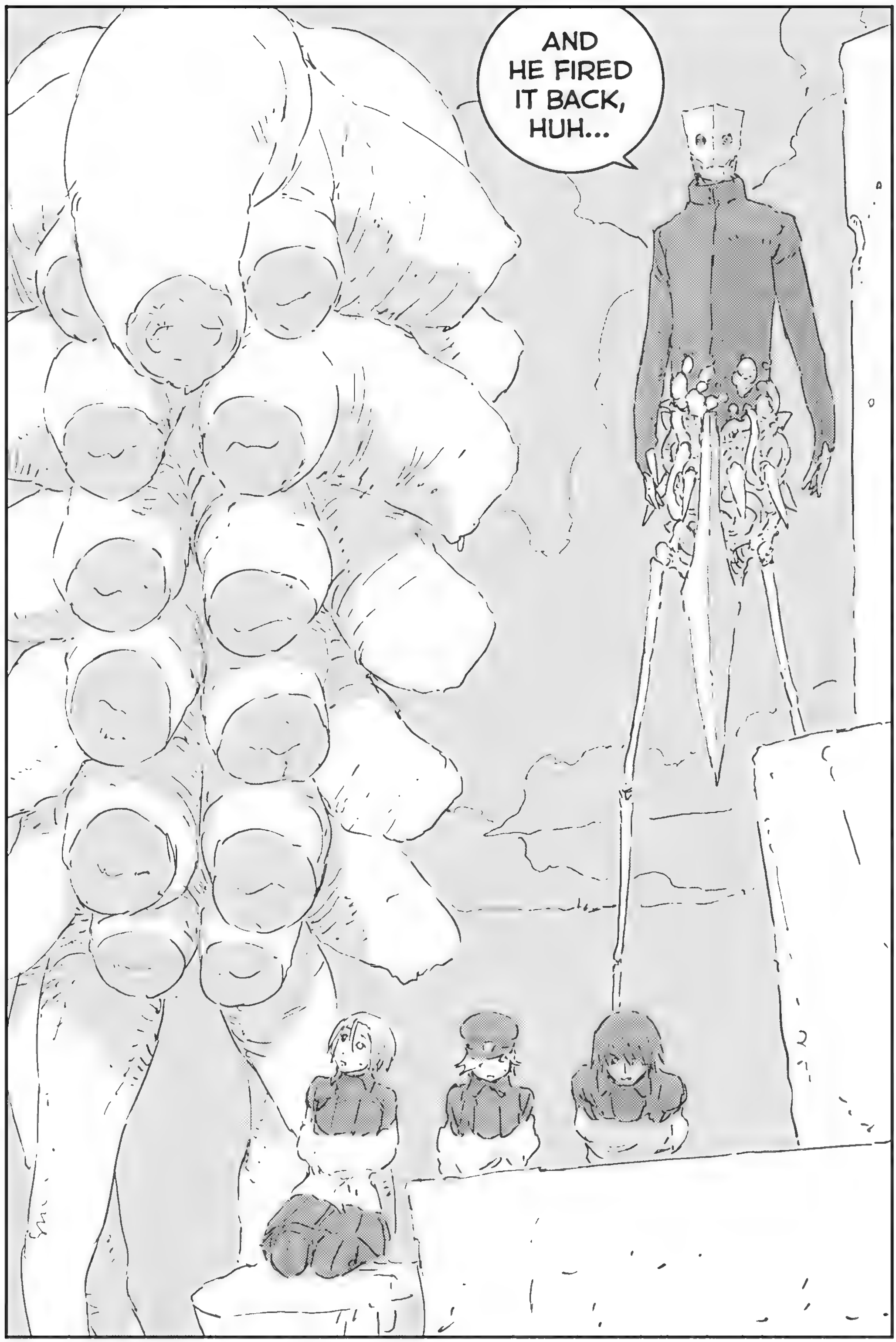






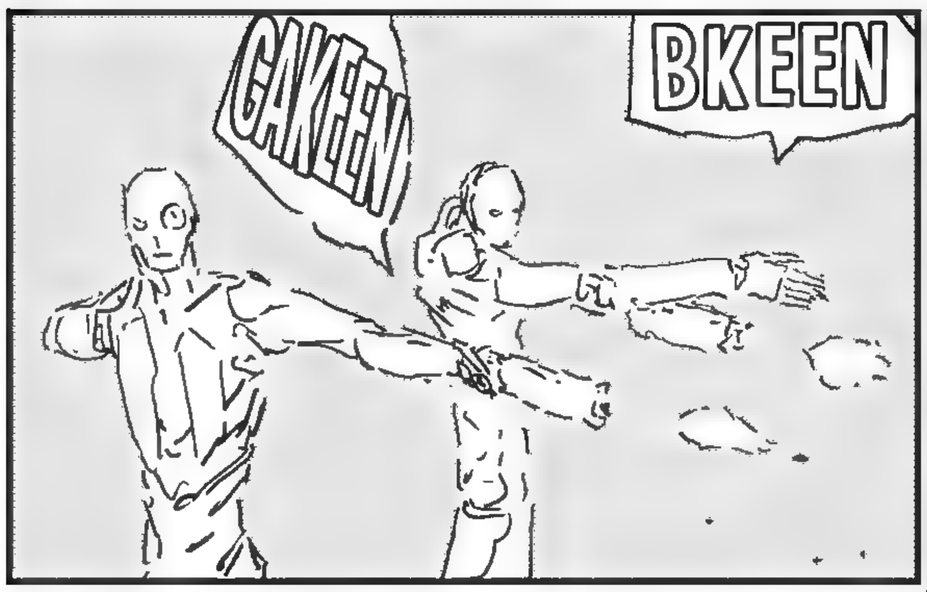


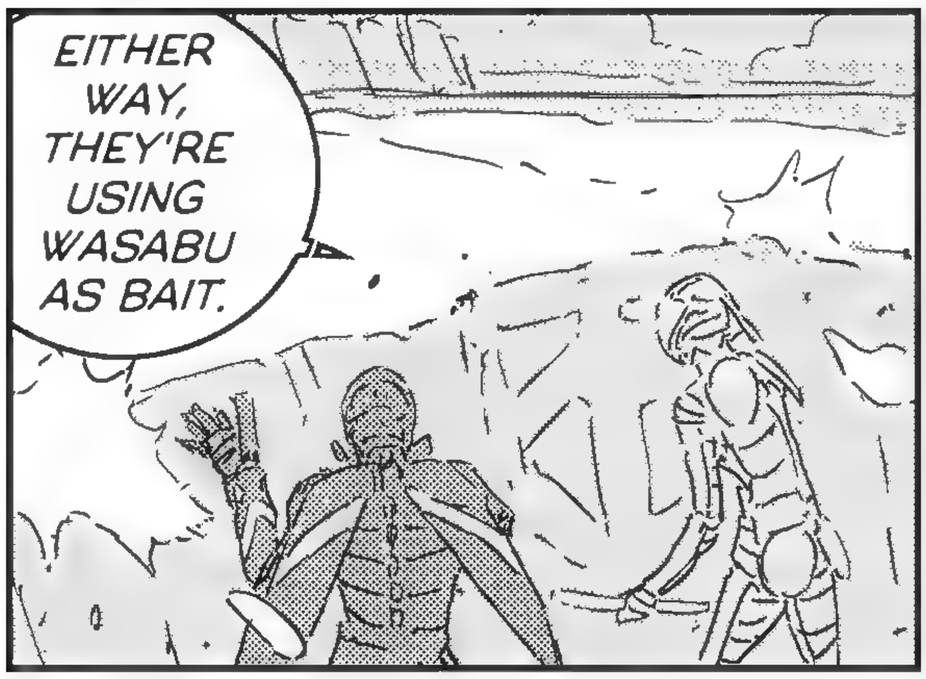

BAKAM

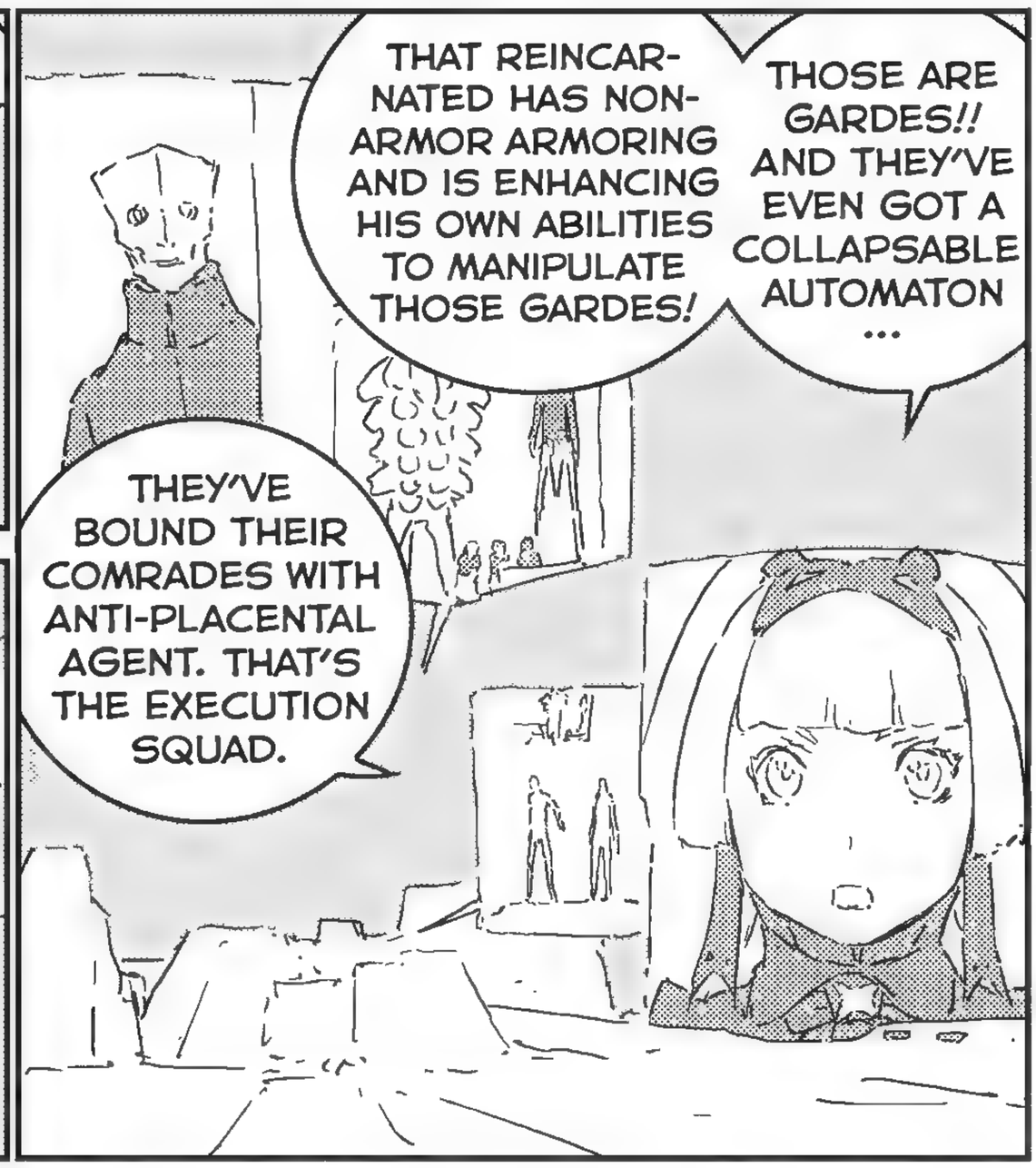

AND HE FIRED IT BACK, HUH...

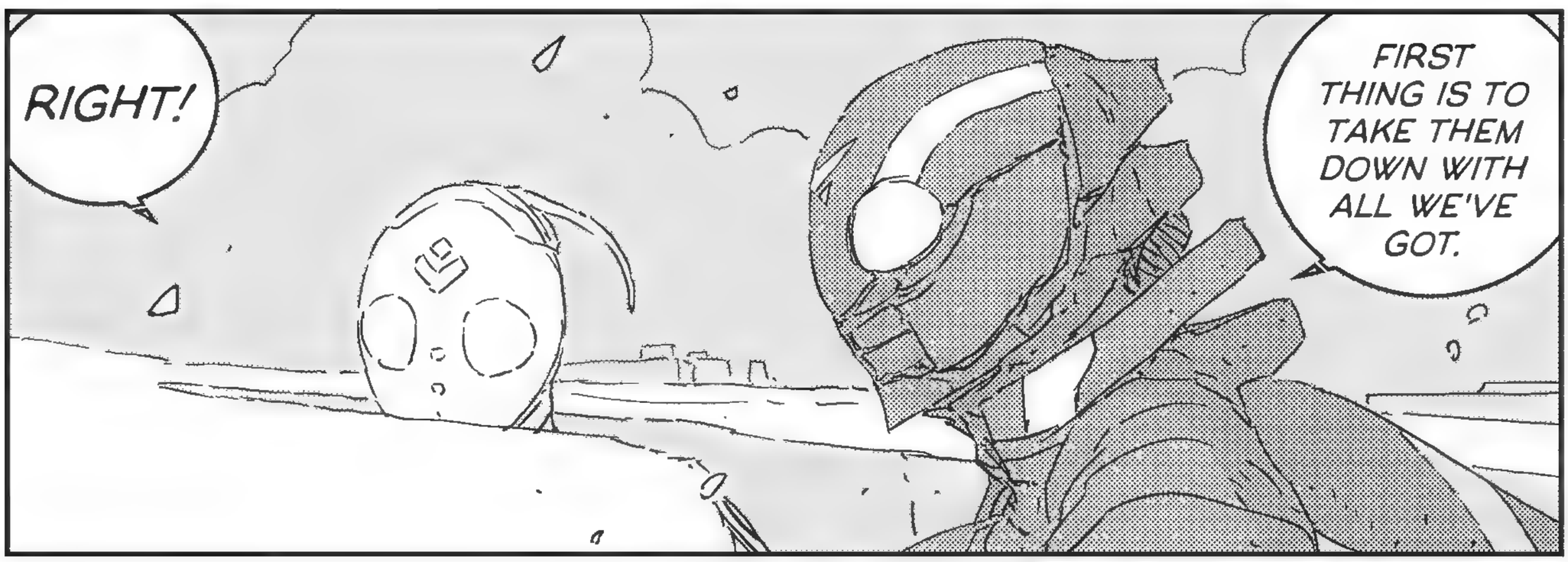
YOU MEASLY LOW-RANK RE-INCARNATEDS CAN KEEP YOUR MOUTHS SHUT!
WE HAVE A ROLE FOR YOU TO PLAY.

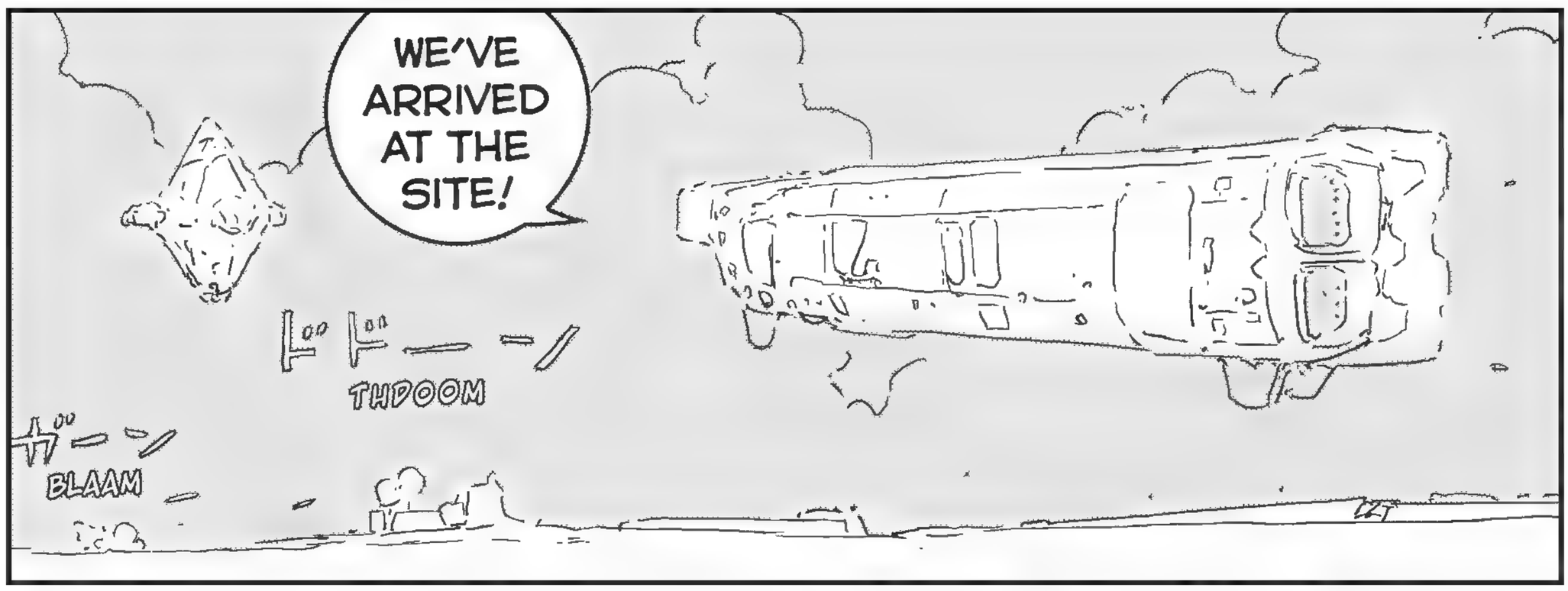
THEIR COMBAT ABILITY IS FAR BEYOND WHAT WE ANTICIPATED!
RELEASE US SO WE CAN JOIN THE FIGHT, TOO!

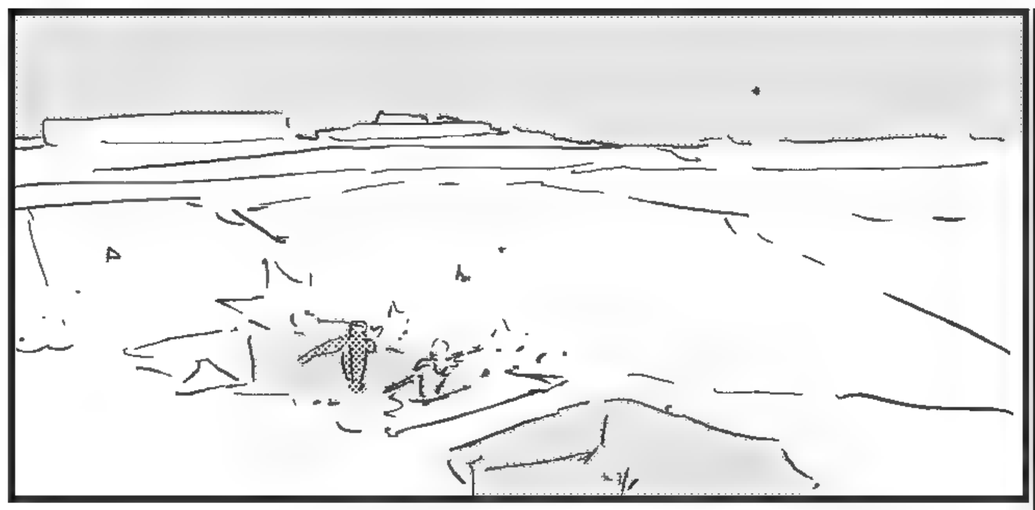

GAKEEN
BKEEN


EITHER WAY, THEY'RE USING WASABU AS BAIT.


THAT REINCAR-NATED HAS NON-ARMOR ARMORING AND IS ENHANCING HIS OWN ABILITIES TO MANIPULATE THOSE GARDES!
THOSE ARE GARDES!! AND THEY'VE EVEN GOT A COLLAPSABLE AUTOMATON ...
THEY'VE BOUND THEIR COMRADES WITH ANTI-PLACENTAL AGENT. THAT'S THE EXECUTION SQUAD.


RIGHT!
FIRST THING IS TO TAKE THEM DOWN WITH ALL WE'VE GOT.

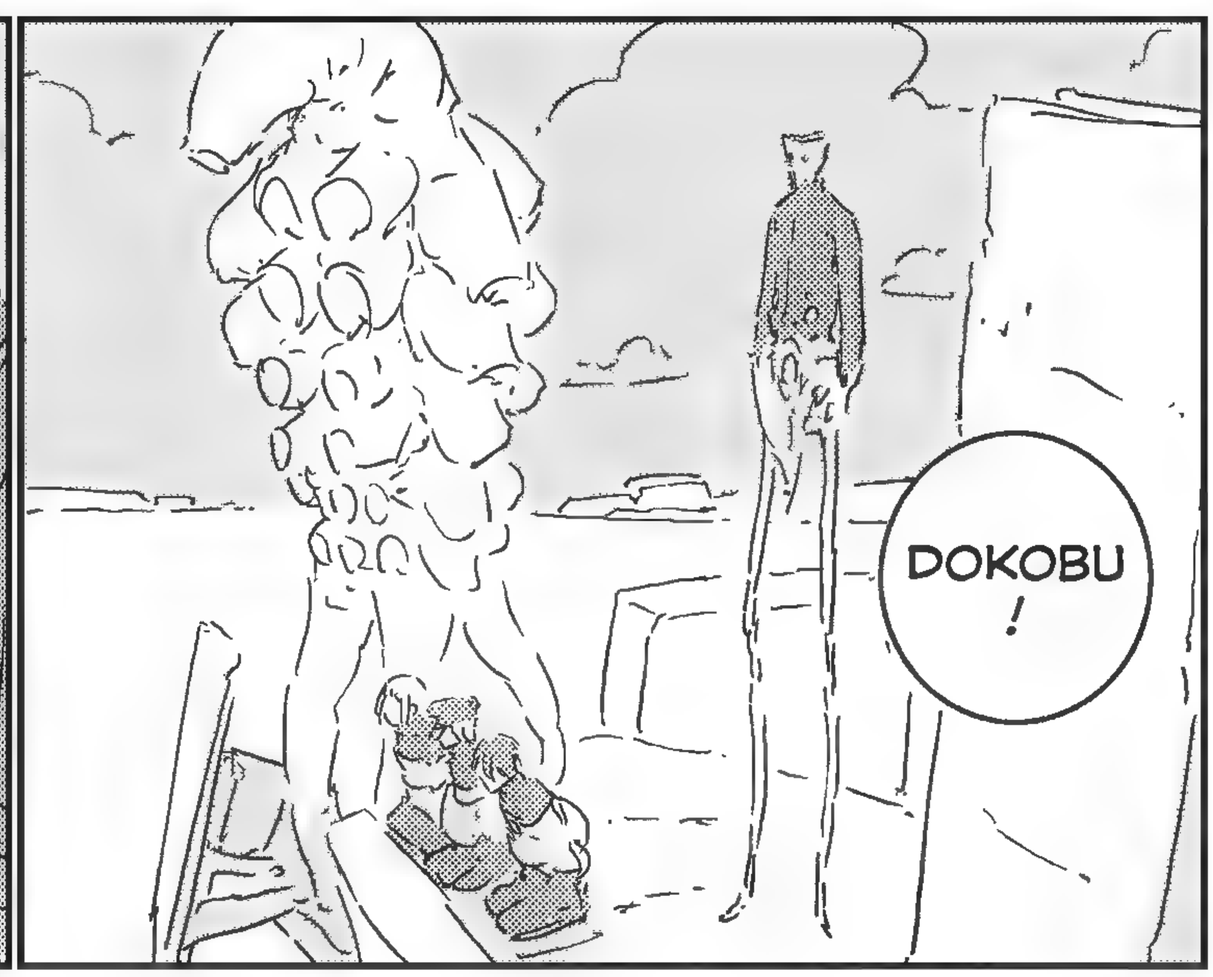

WE'VE ARRIVED AT THE SITE!
THDOOM
BLAAM

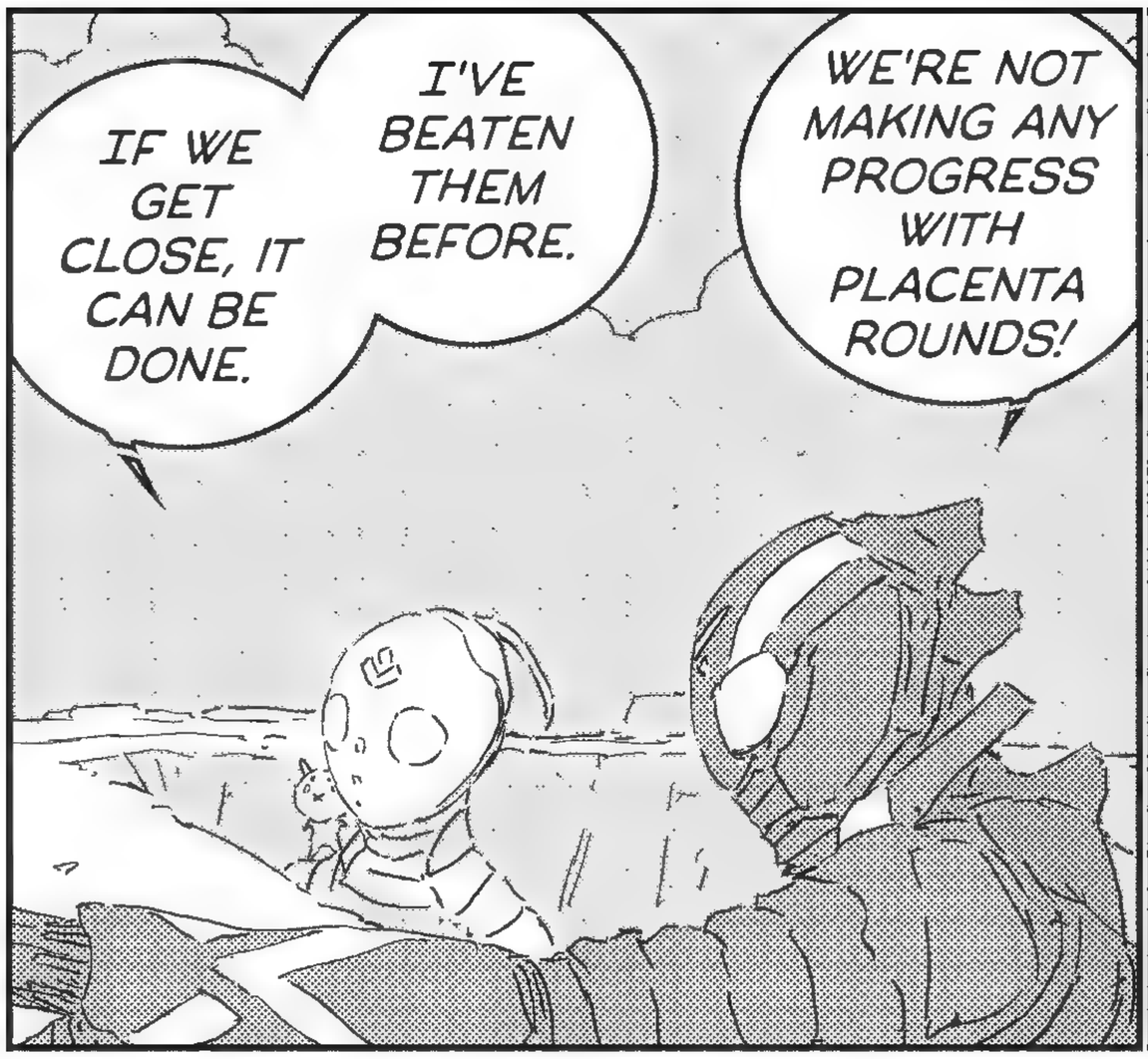


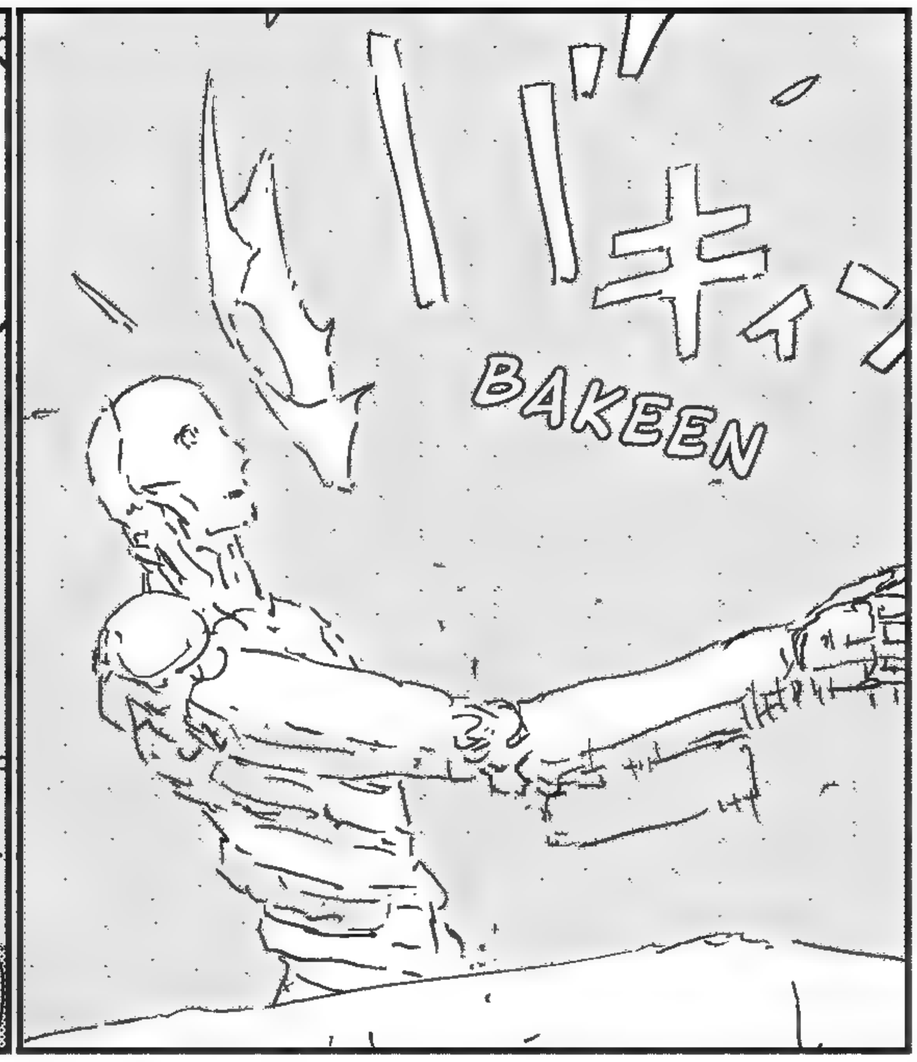
THOSE ARE GARDES!!

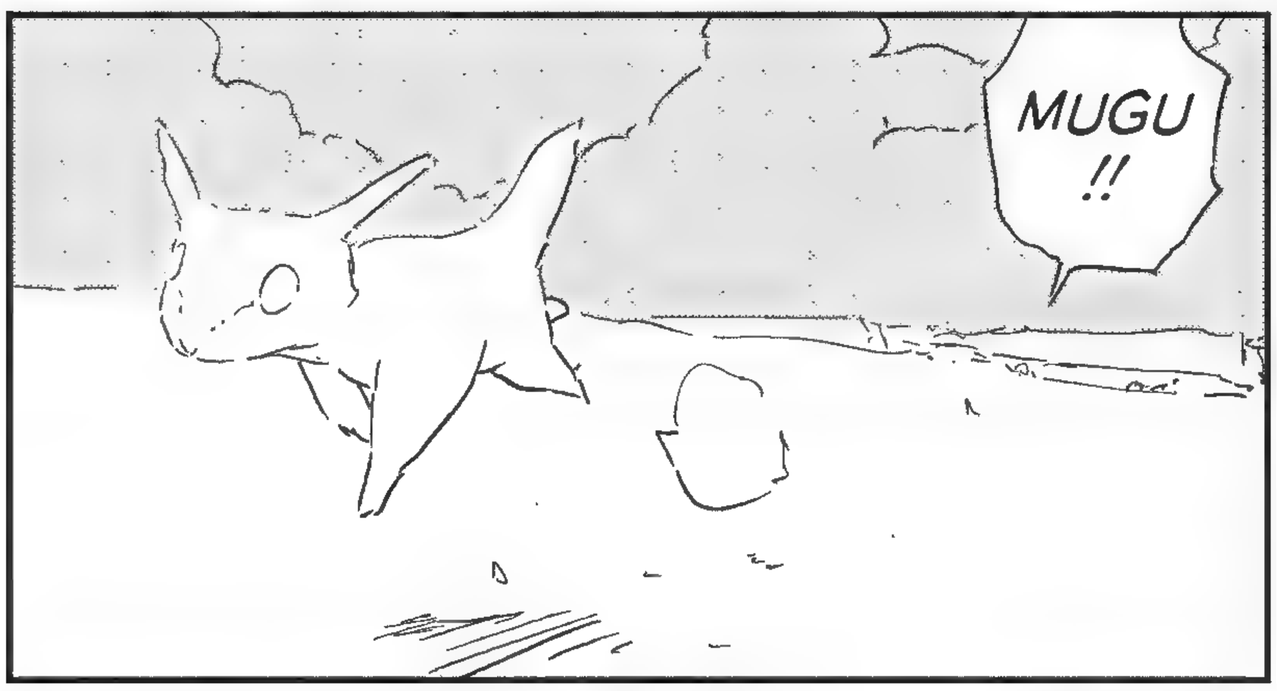
IS IT THE OBSERVATION SHIP AND ETHEROW THAT ARE FIGHTING?
NO.

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE?!
THE EXECUTION SQUAD GOT HERE BEFORE US AGAIN.

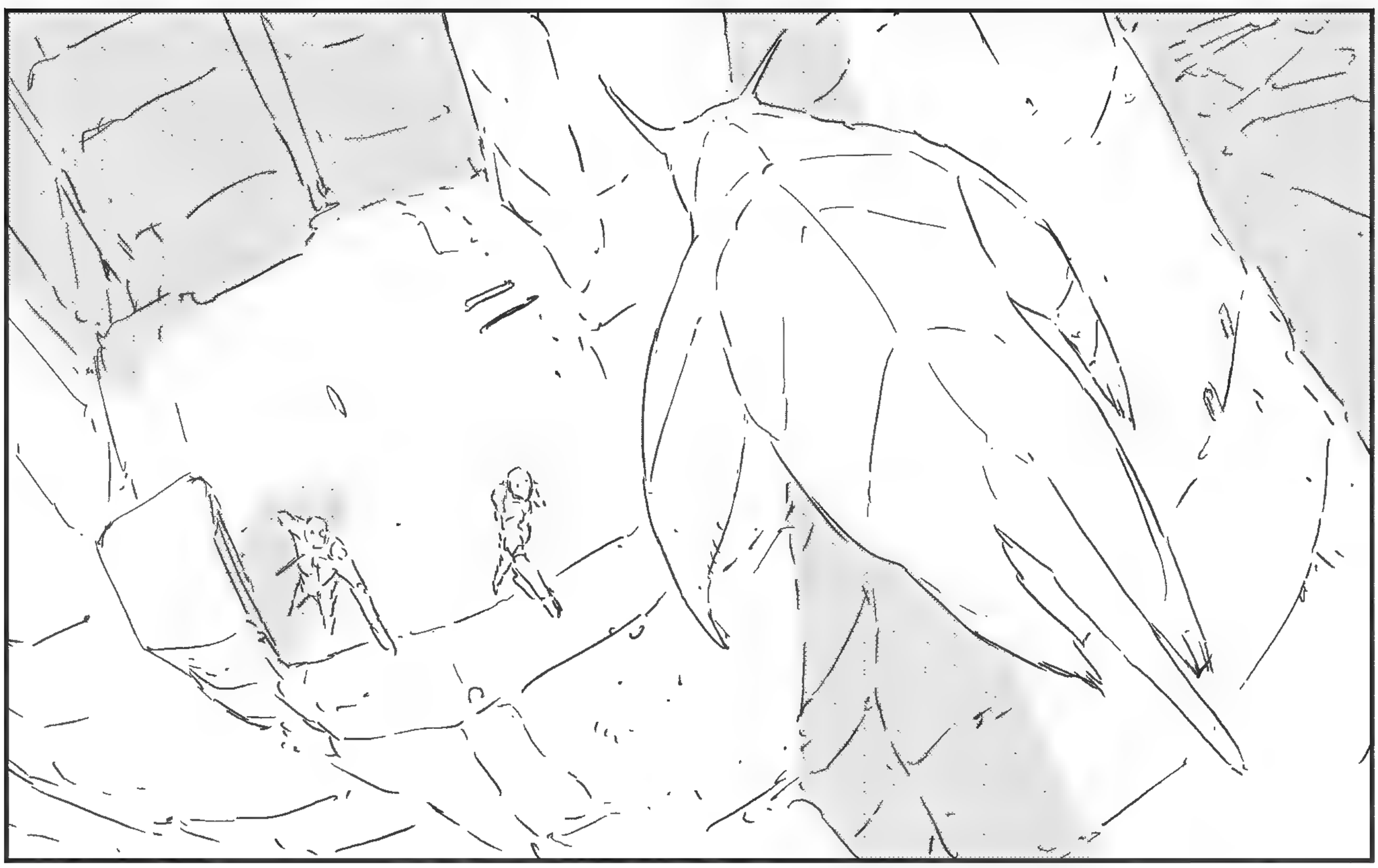

DOKOBU!


IF WE GET CLOSE, IT CAN BE DONE.
I'VE BEATEN THEM BEFORE.
WE'RE NOT MAKING ANY PROGRESS WITH PLACENTA ROUNDS!

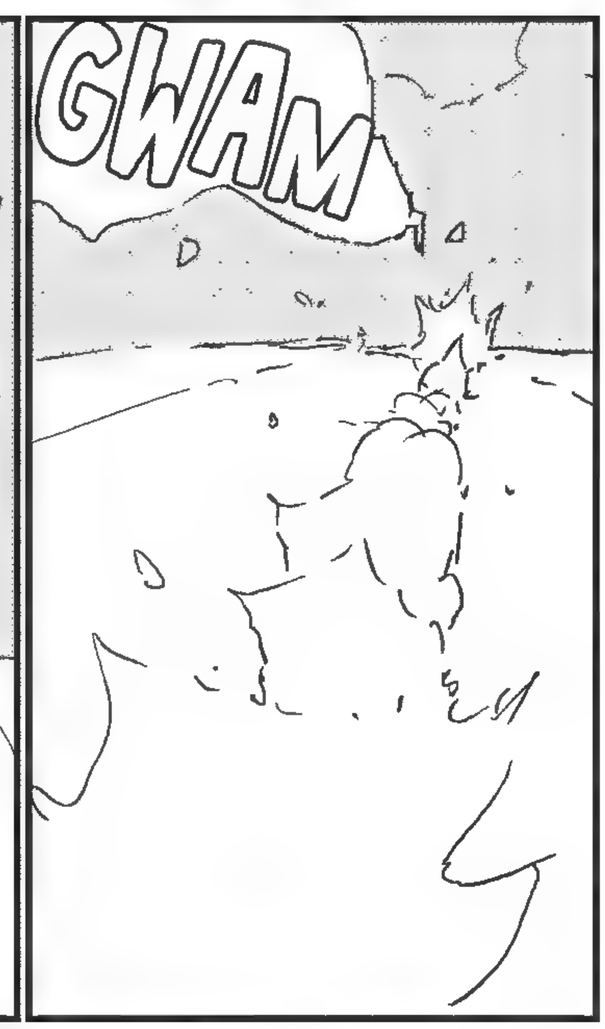

BAKEEN

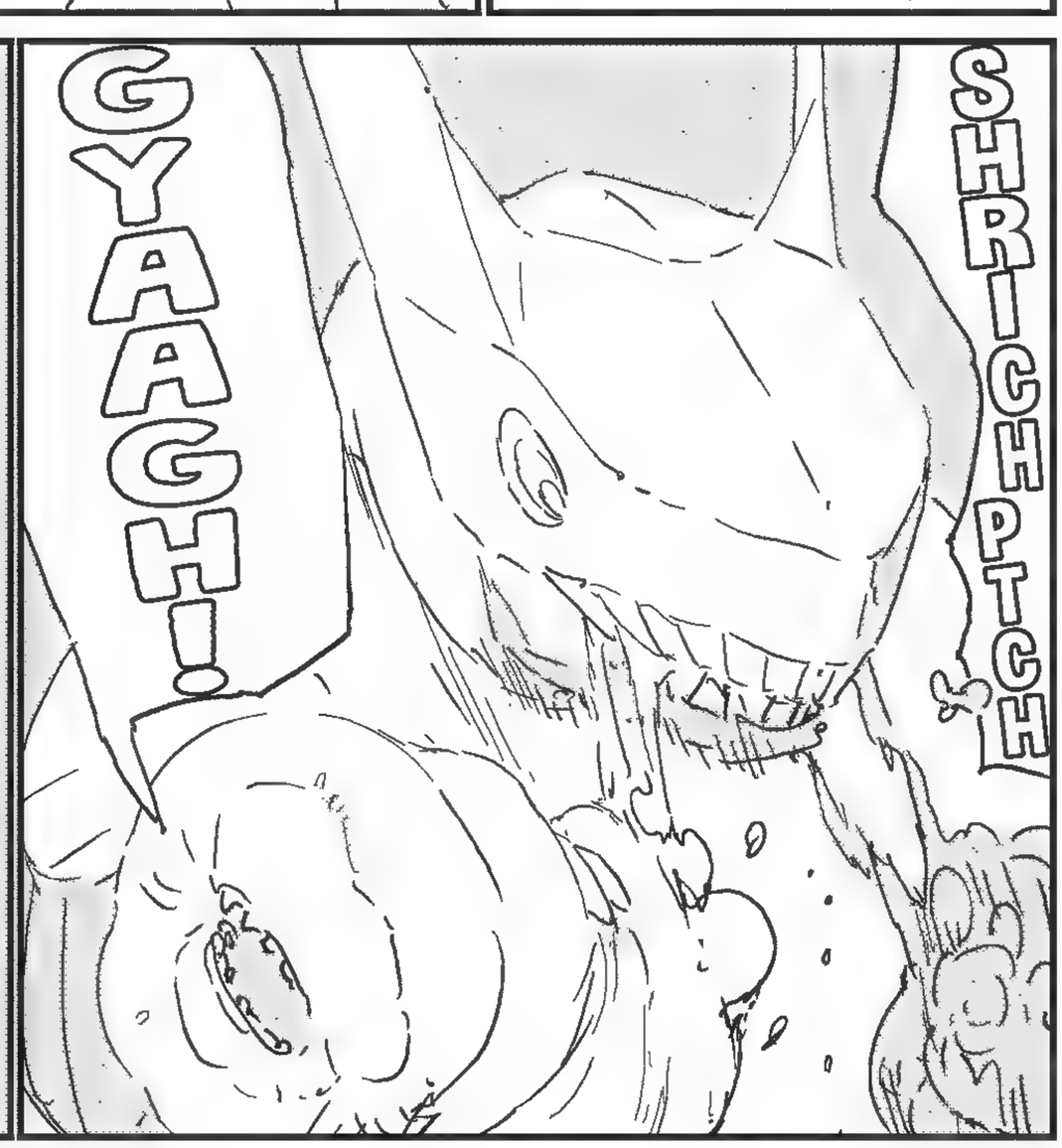

MUGU !!

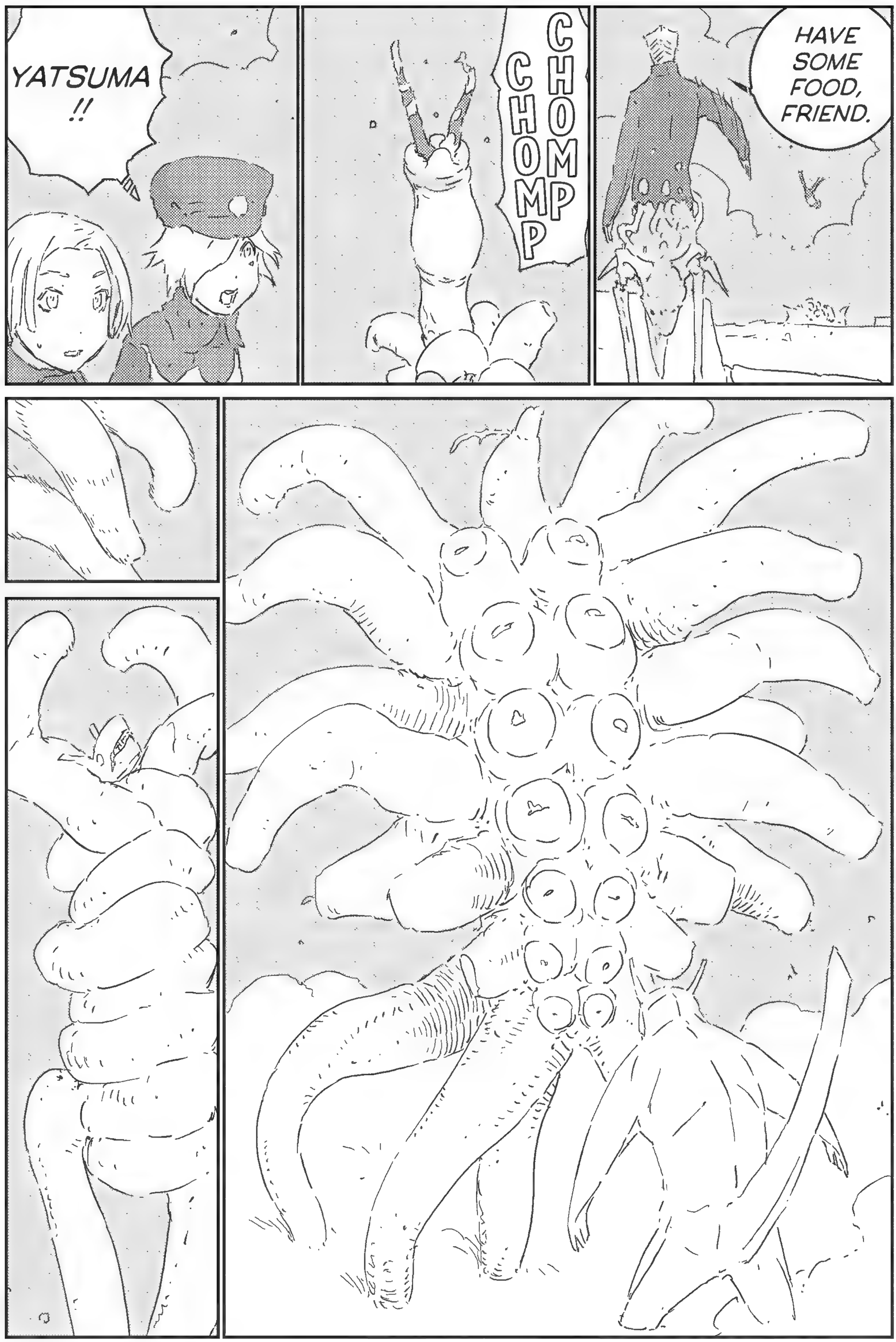
POING

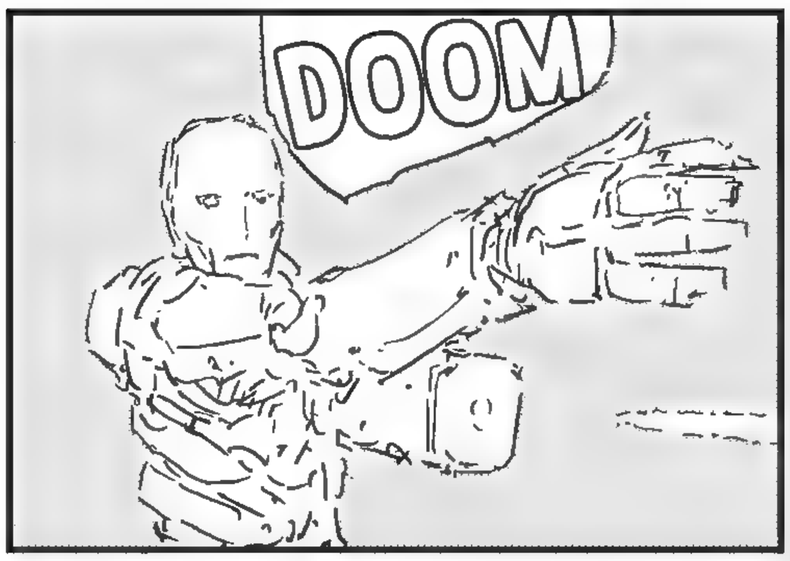


THO
OM

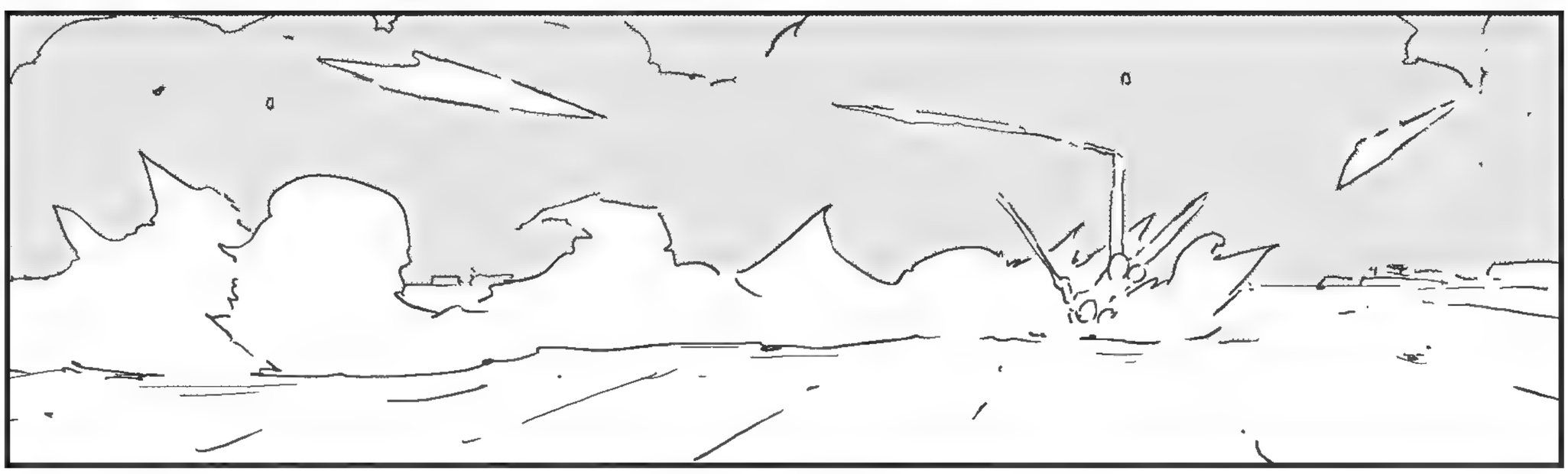

GWAM


SHRICH PTCH
GYAAGH!

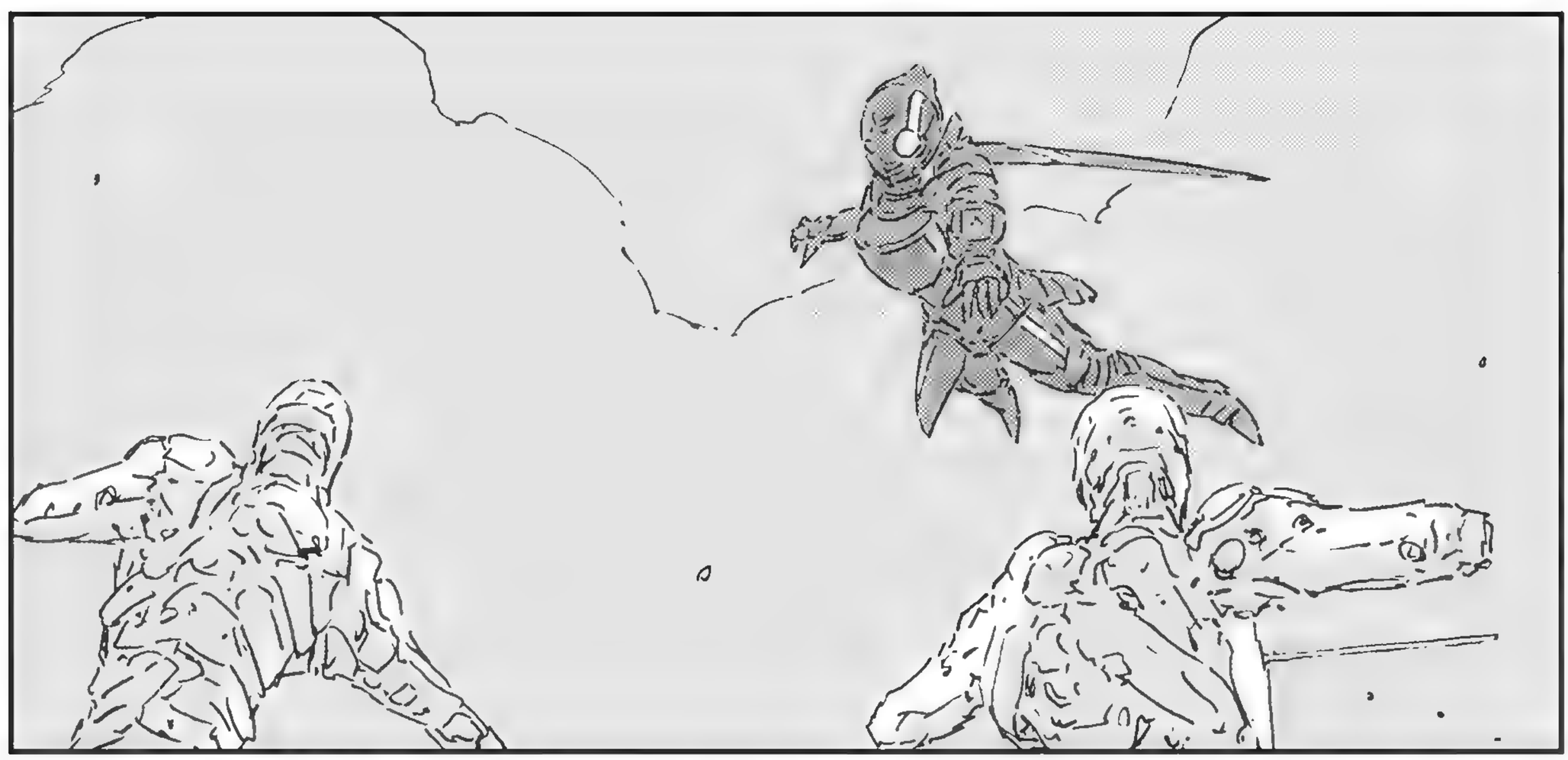

YATSUMA !!
CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP
HAVE SOME FOOD, FRIEND.


DOOM

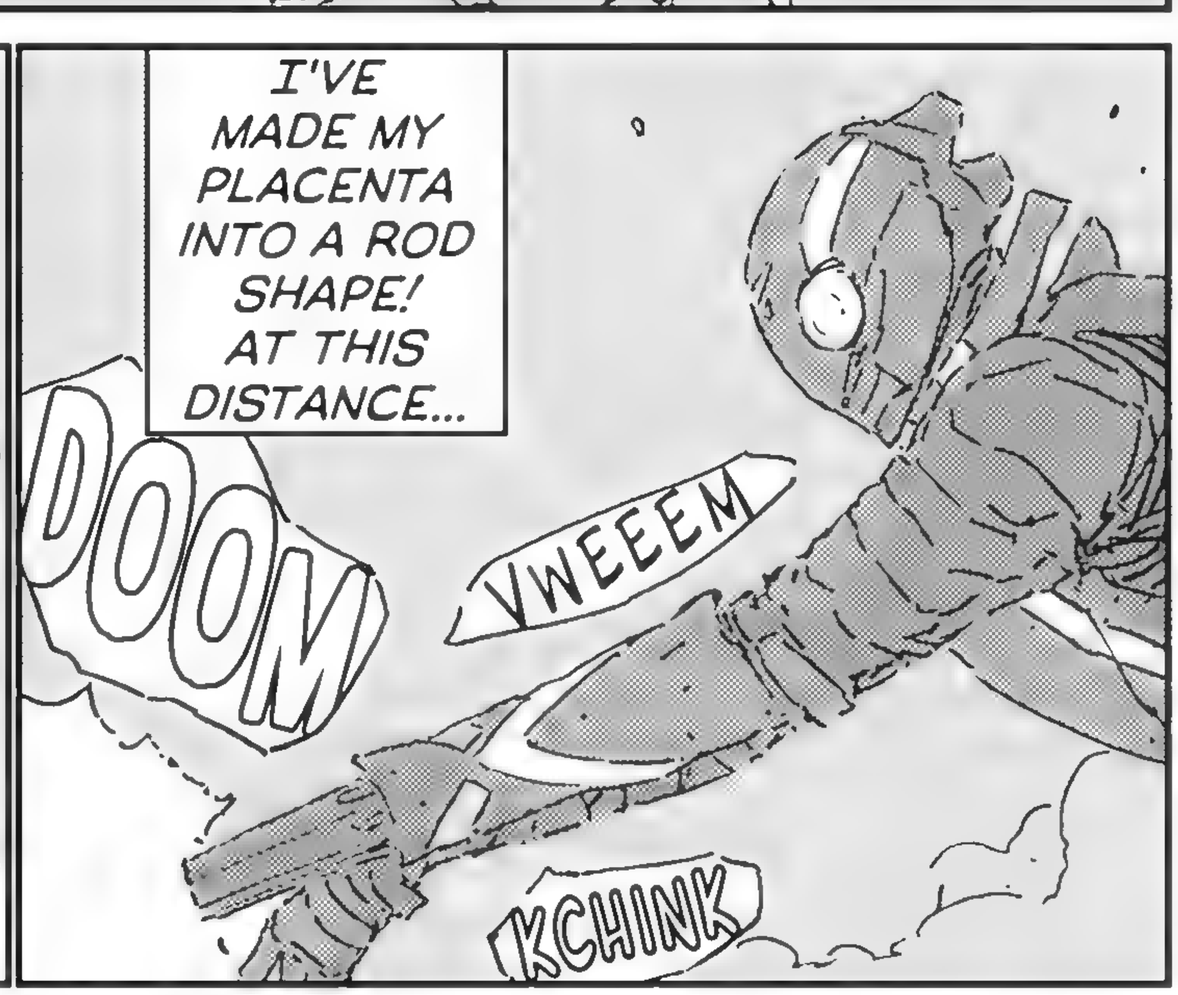
GZ
ZAT

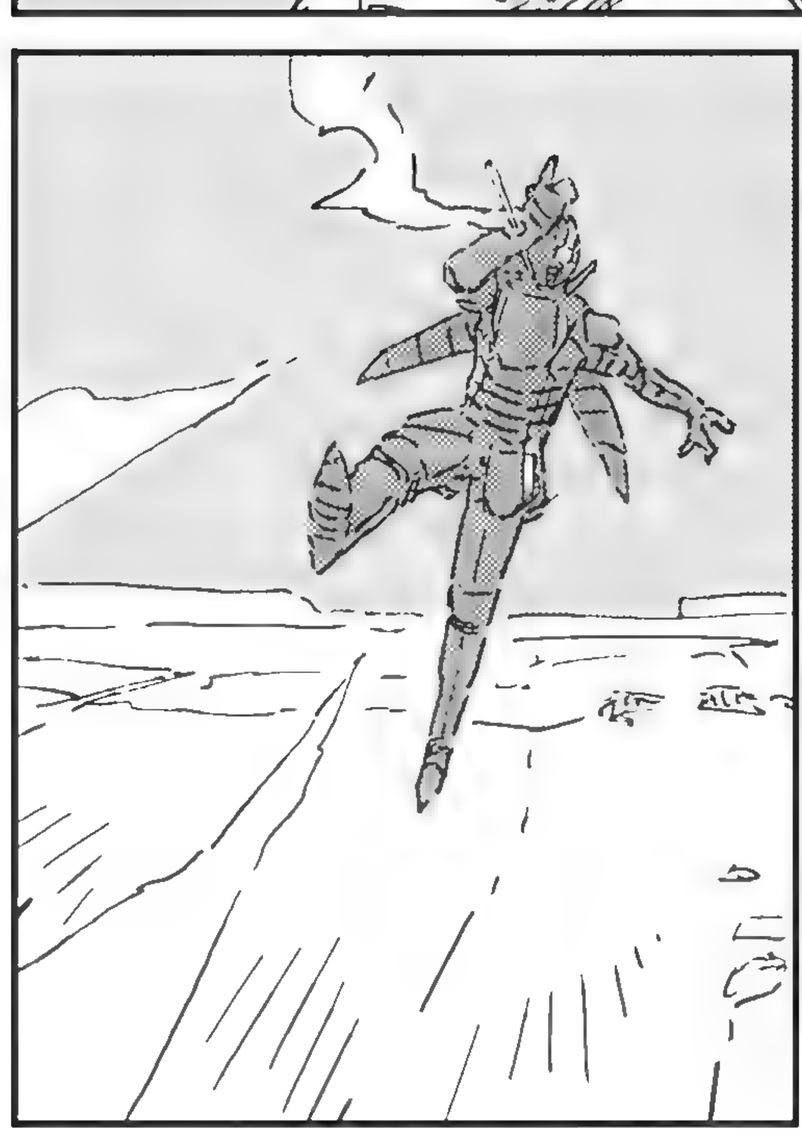


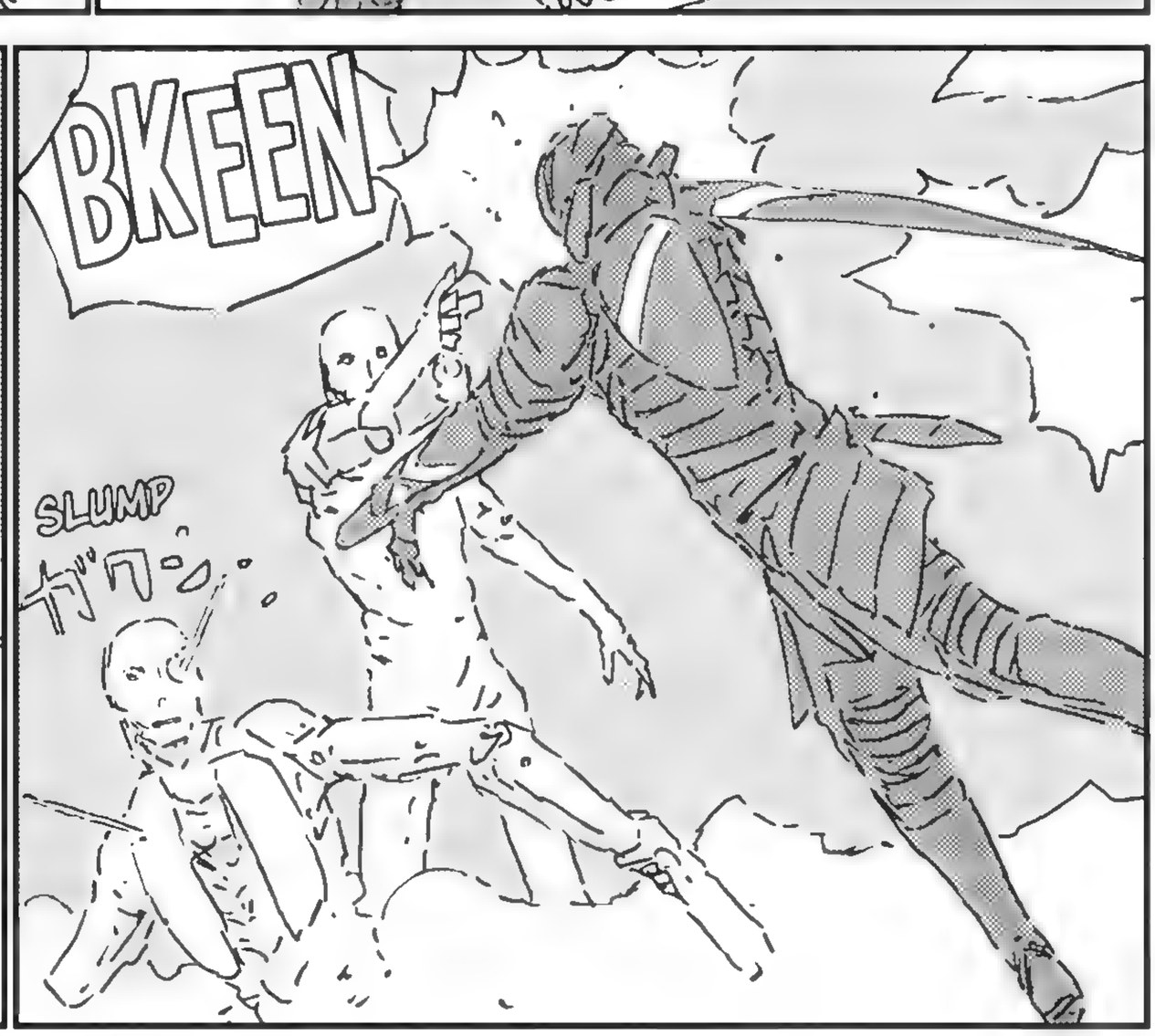
BASH!
BOOM
BOOM

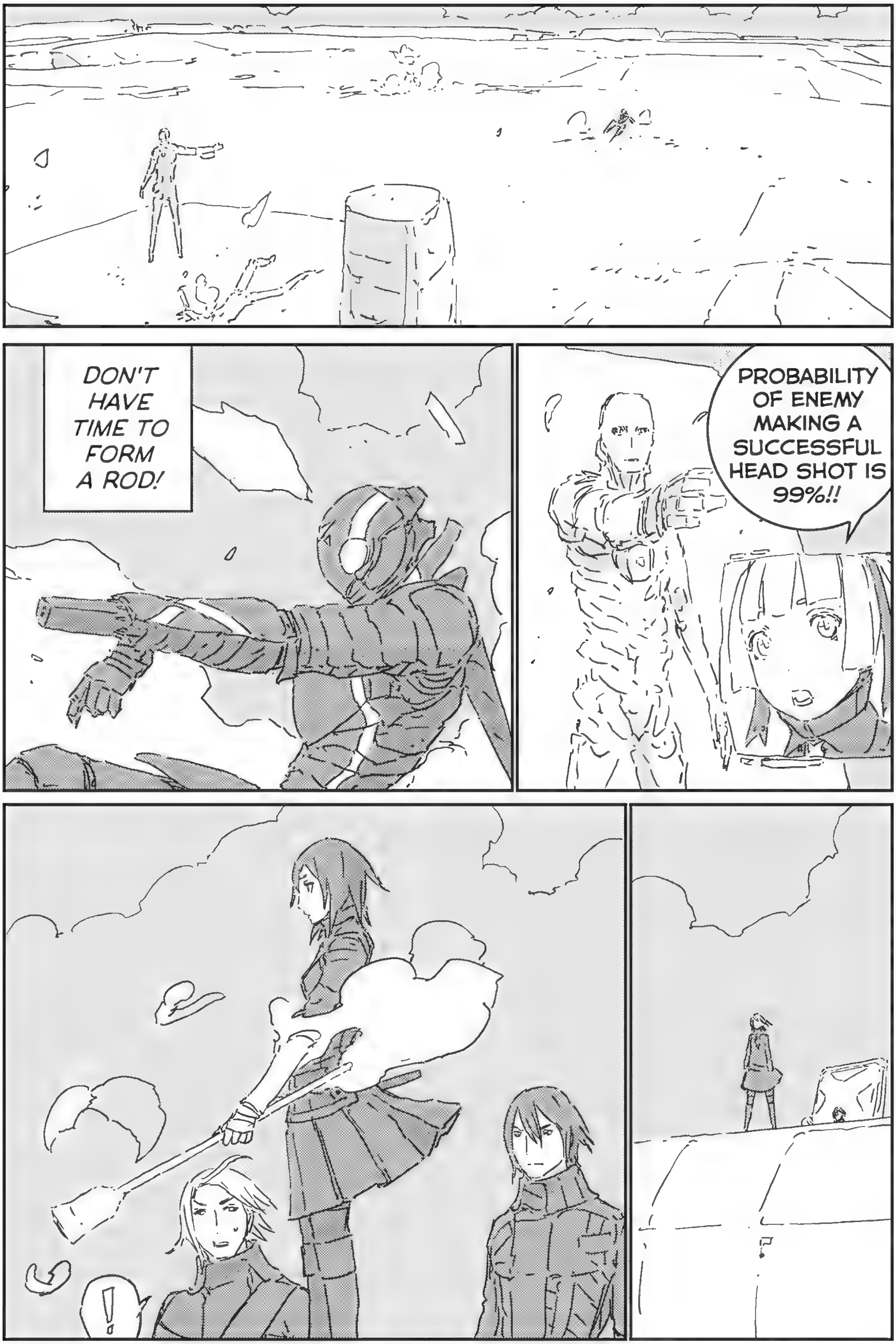


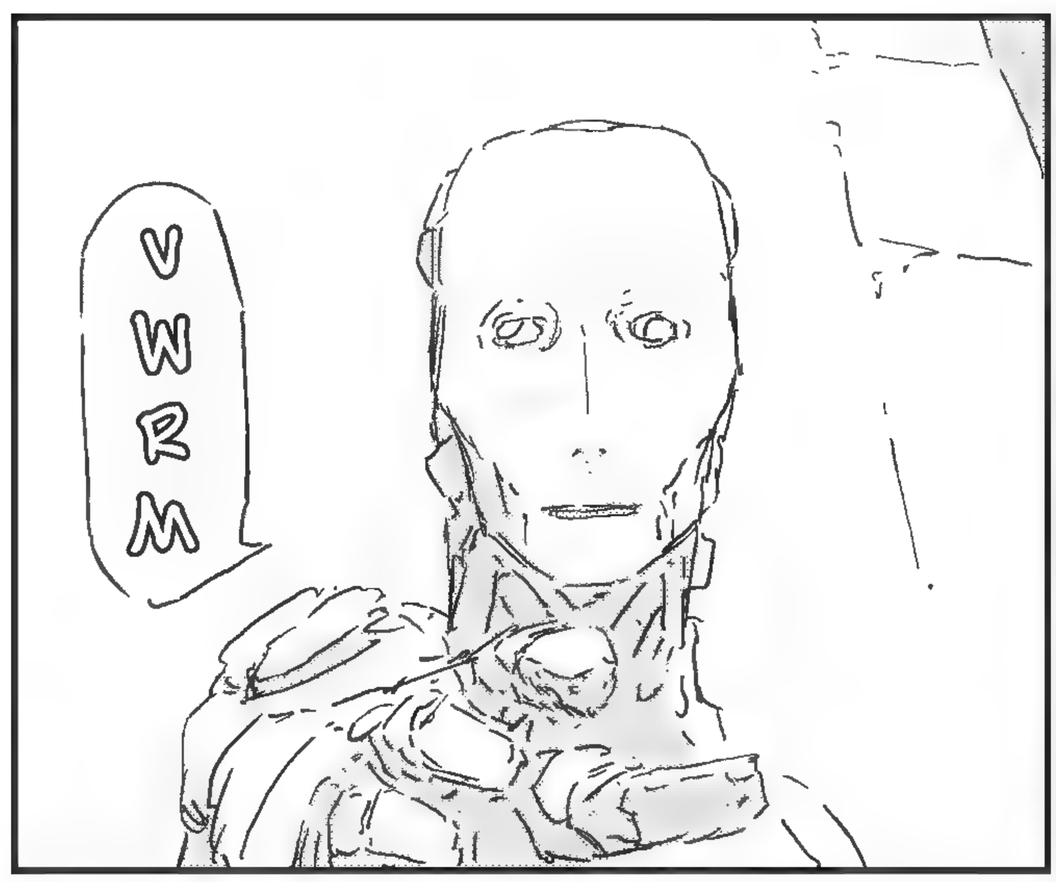
IT WENT THROUGH !!
KANK

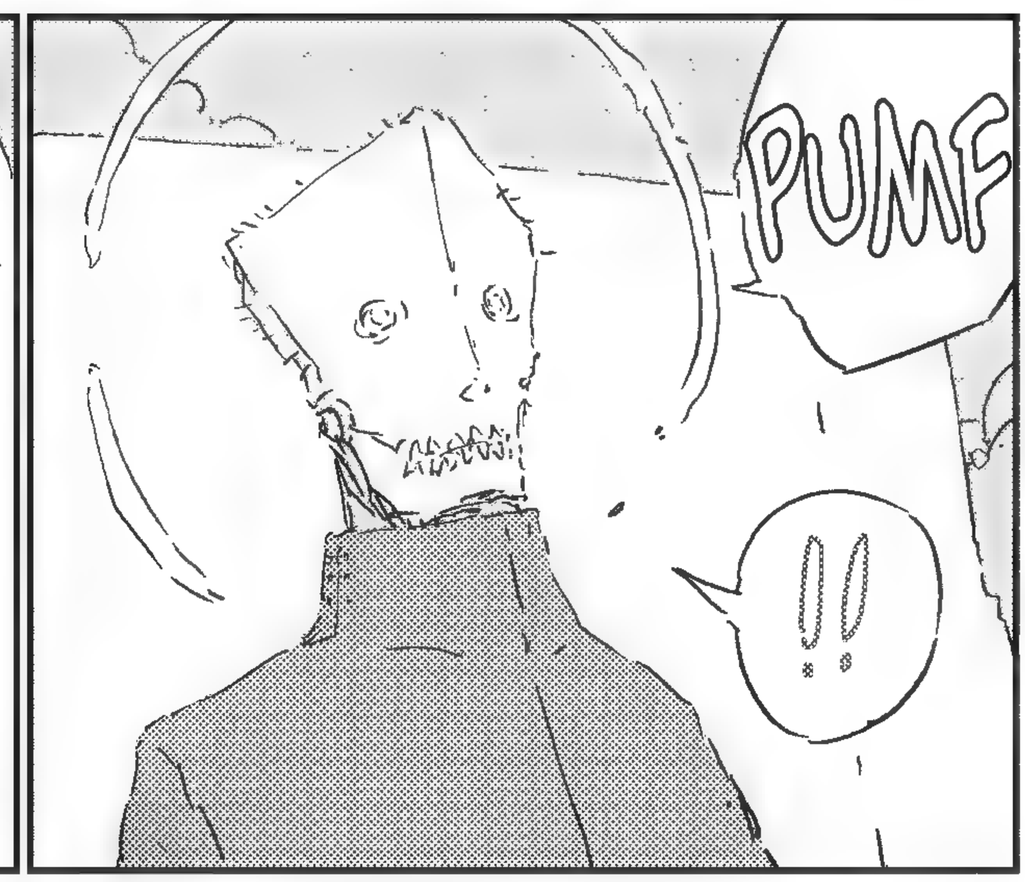

I'VE MADE MY PLACENTA INTO A ROD SHAPE! AT THIS DISTANCE...
DOOM
VWEEEM
KCHINK

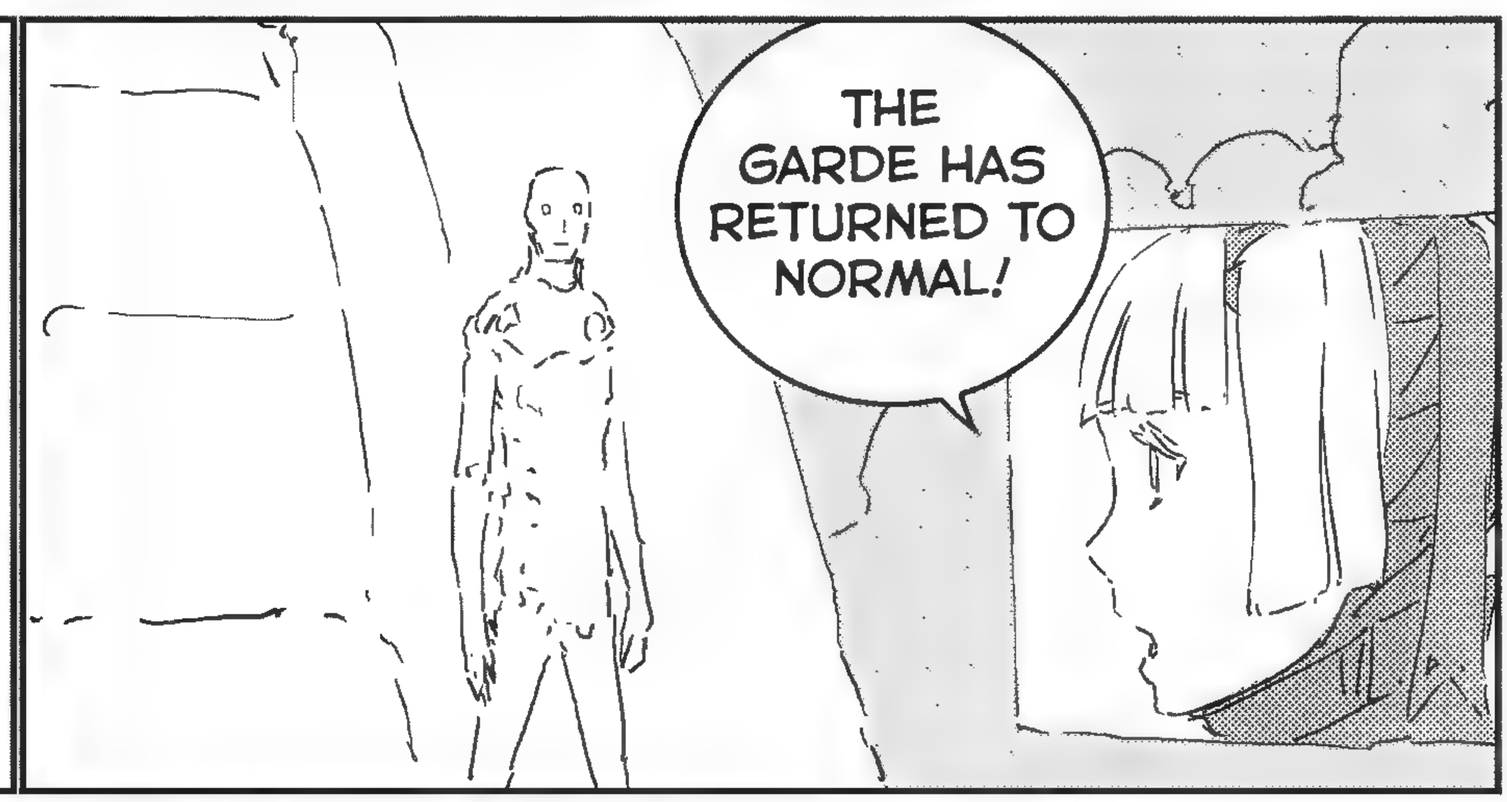


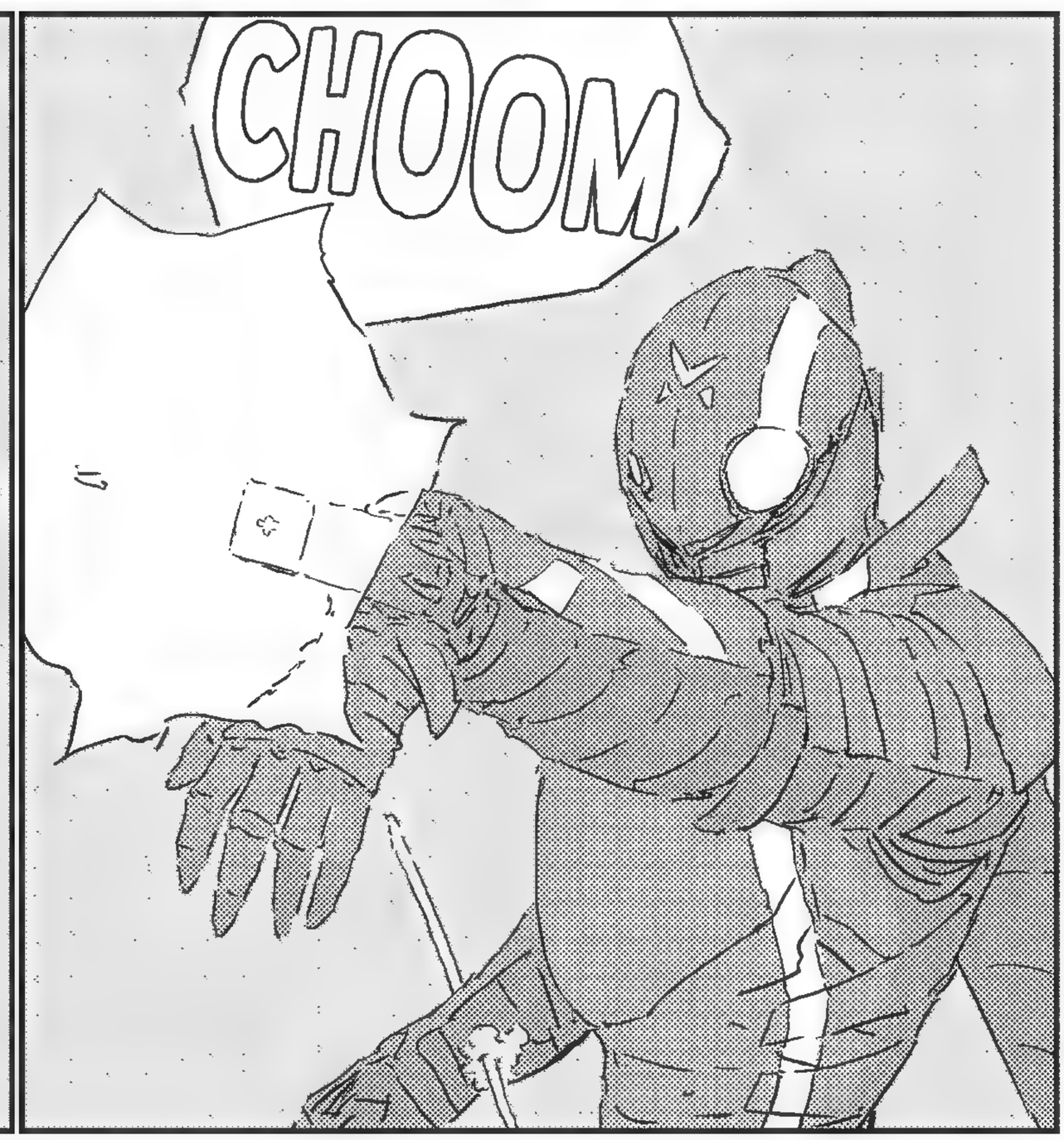

BKEEN
SLUMP


DON'T HAVE TIME TO FORM A ROD!
PROBABILITY OF ENEMY MAKING A SUCCESSFUL HEAD SHOT IS 99%!!
!

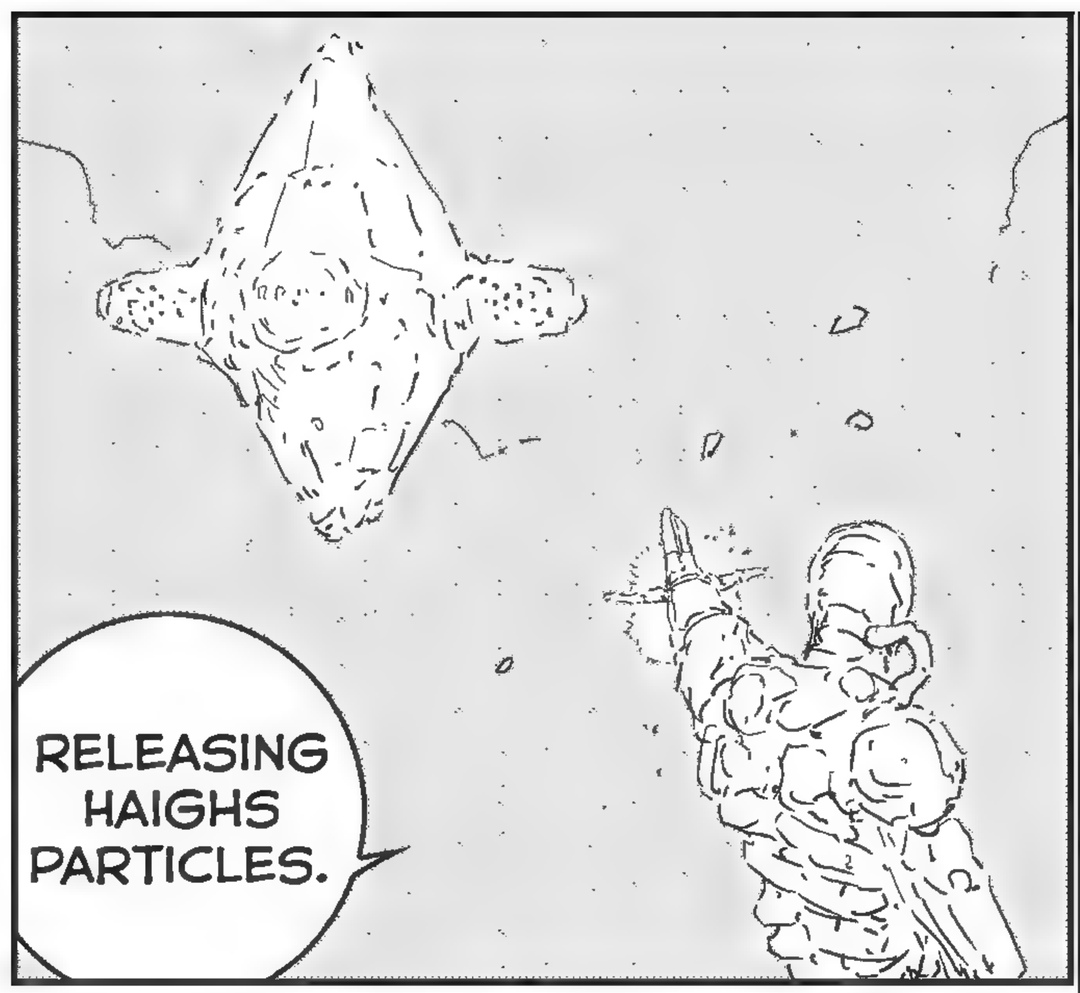

VWRM

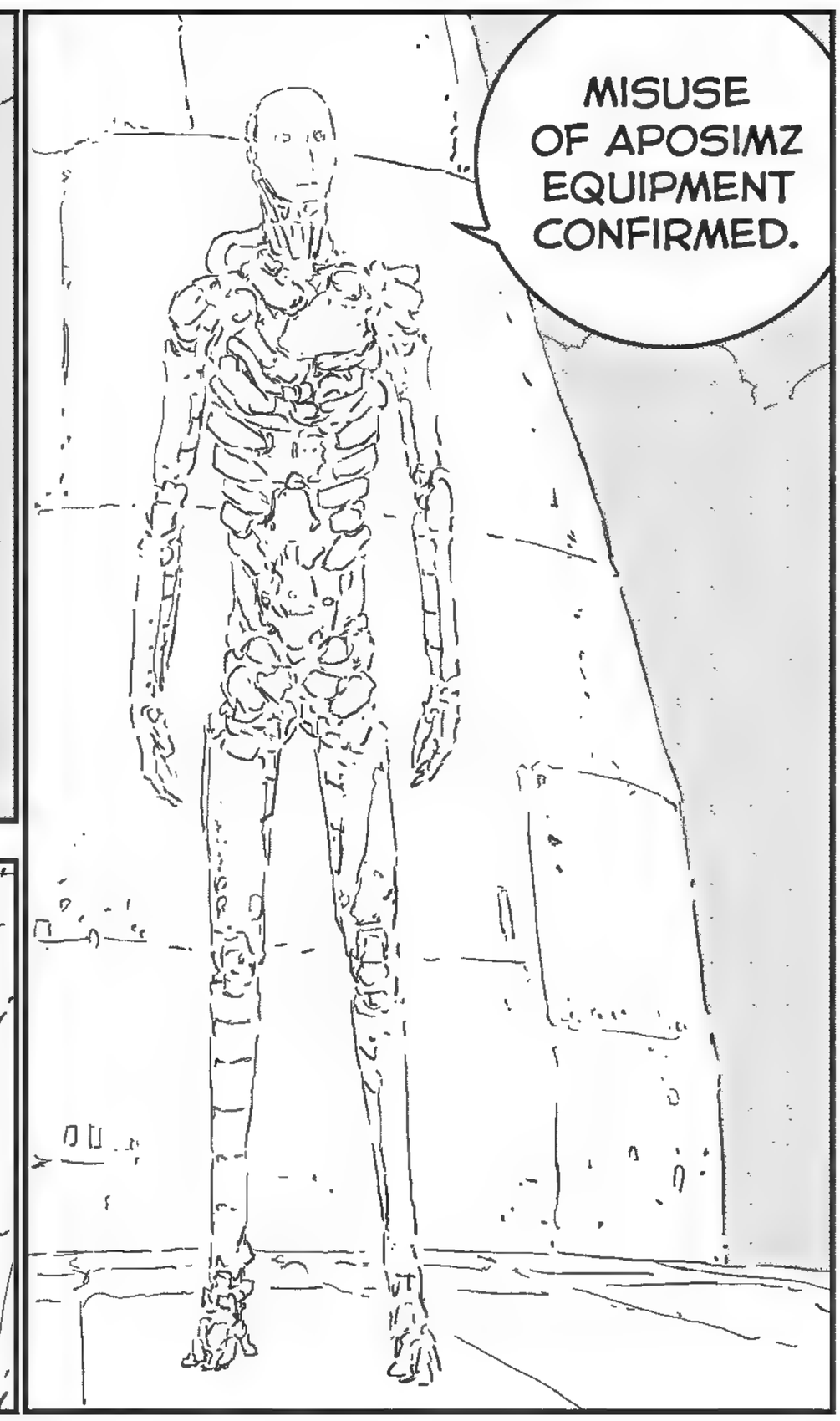

PUMF
!!

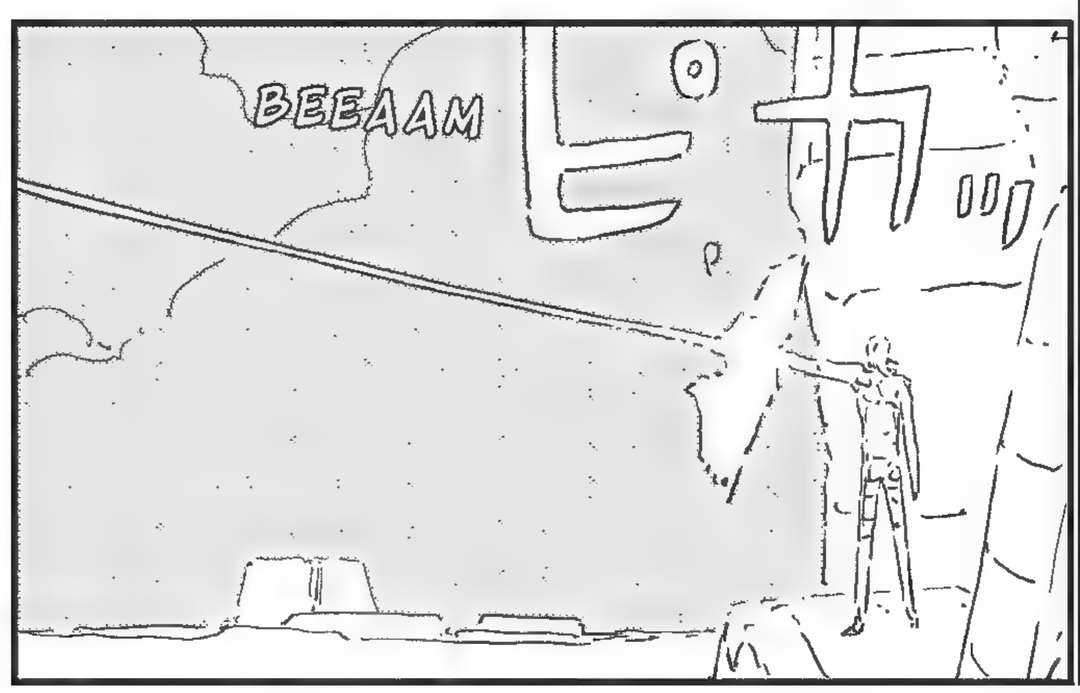

THE GARDE HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL!

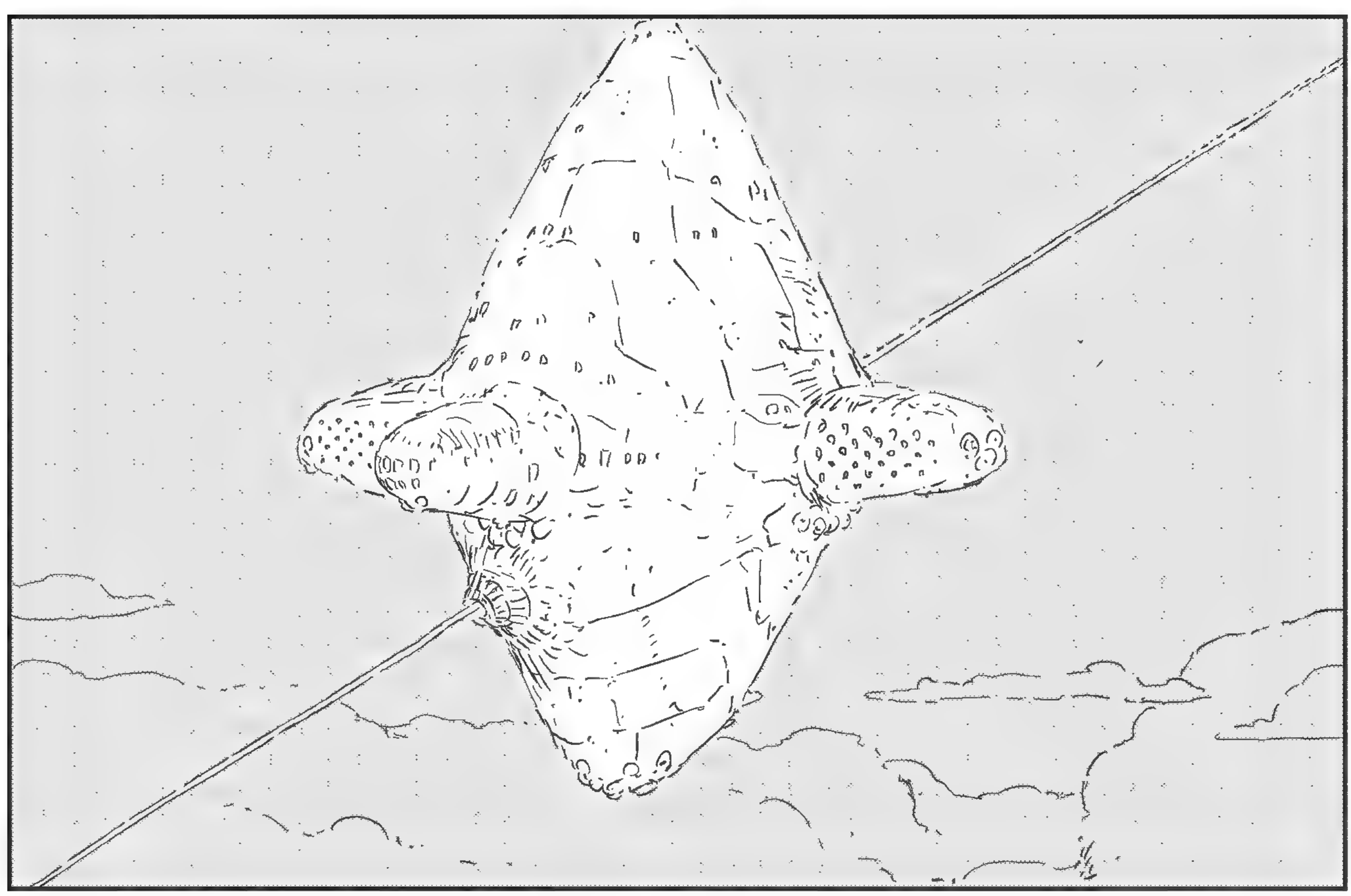

CHOOM

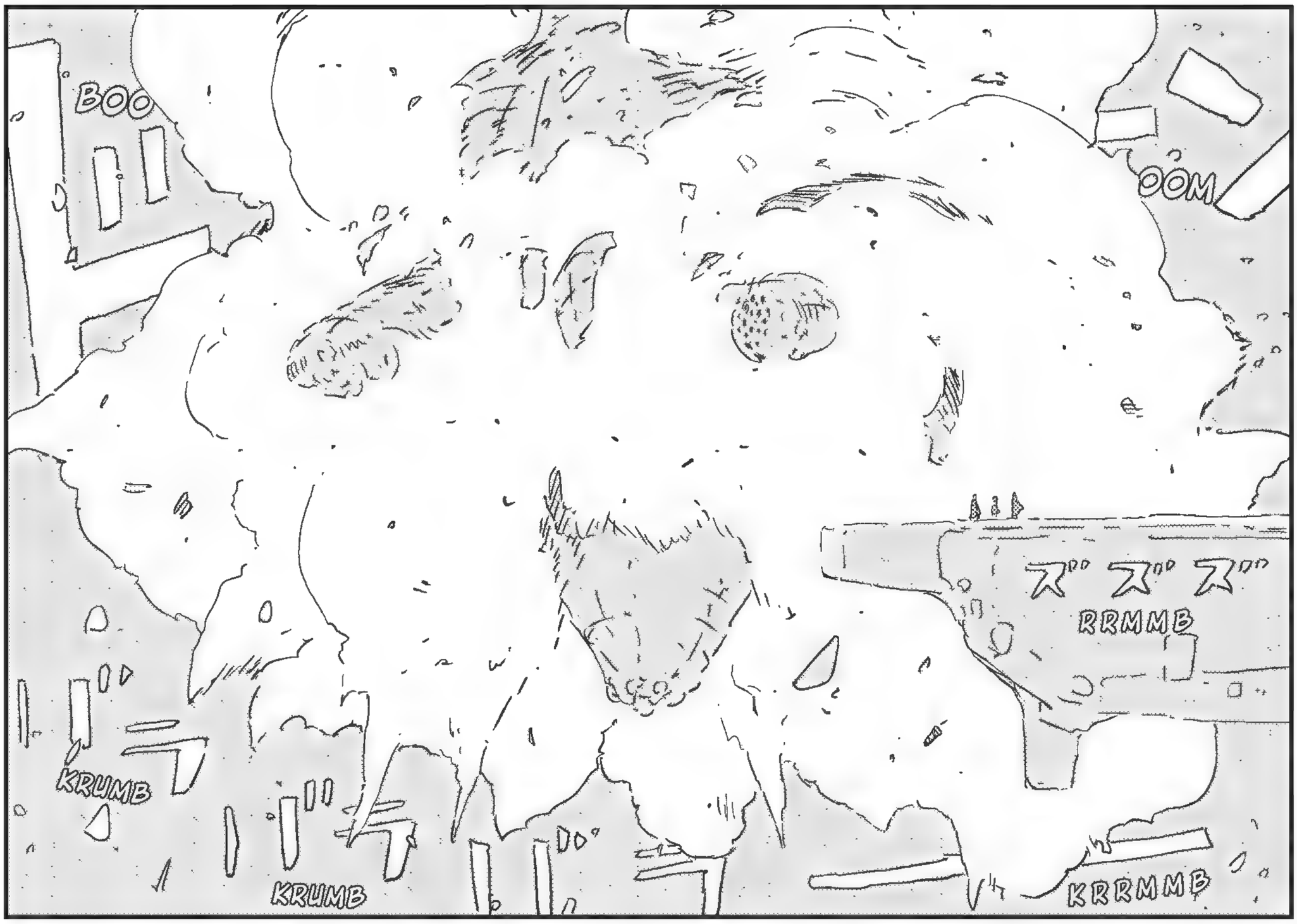
PLOP
POING

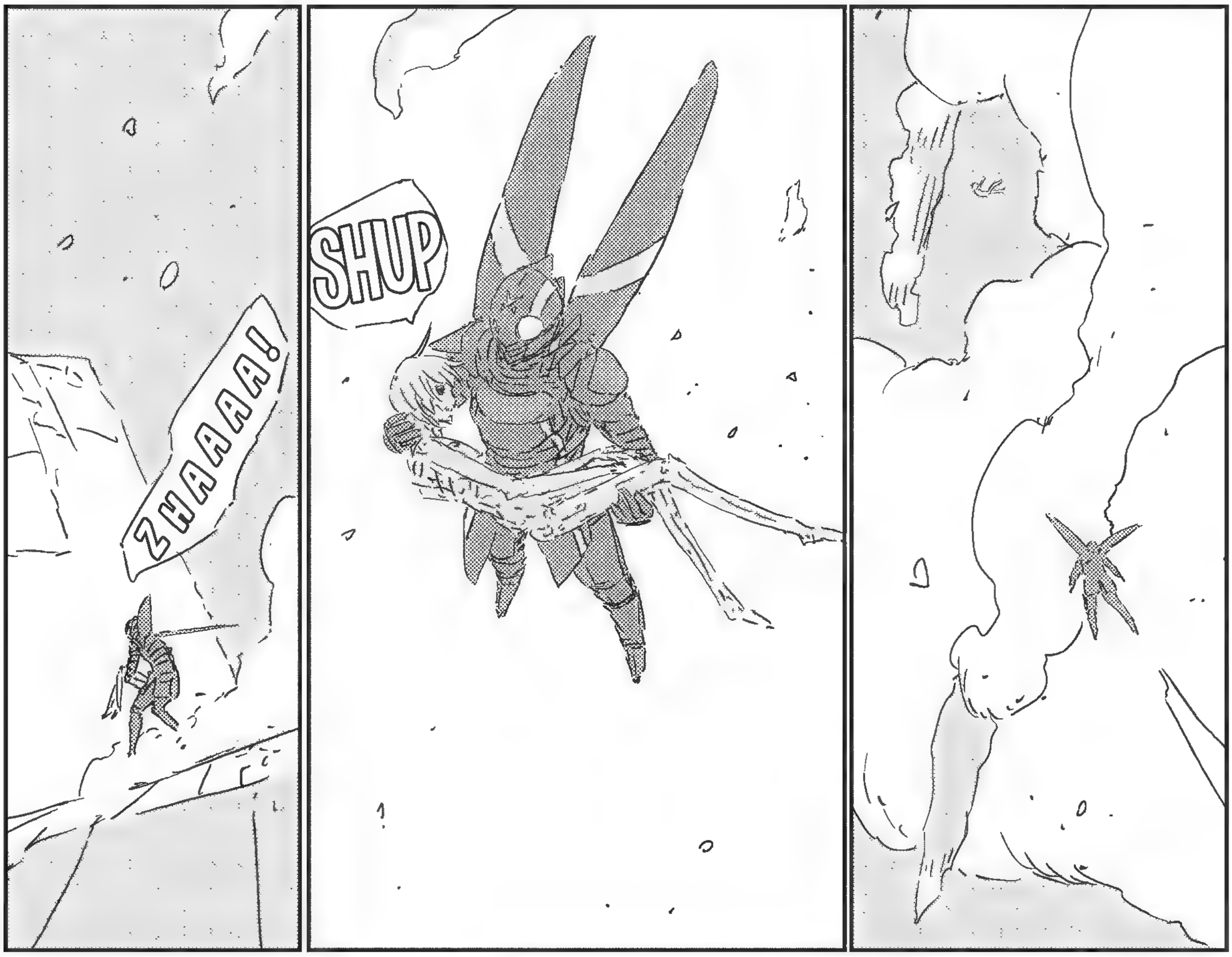

RELEASING HAIGHS PARTICLES.

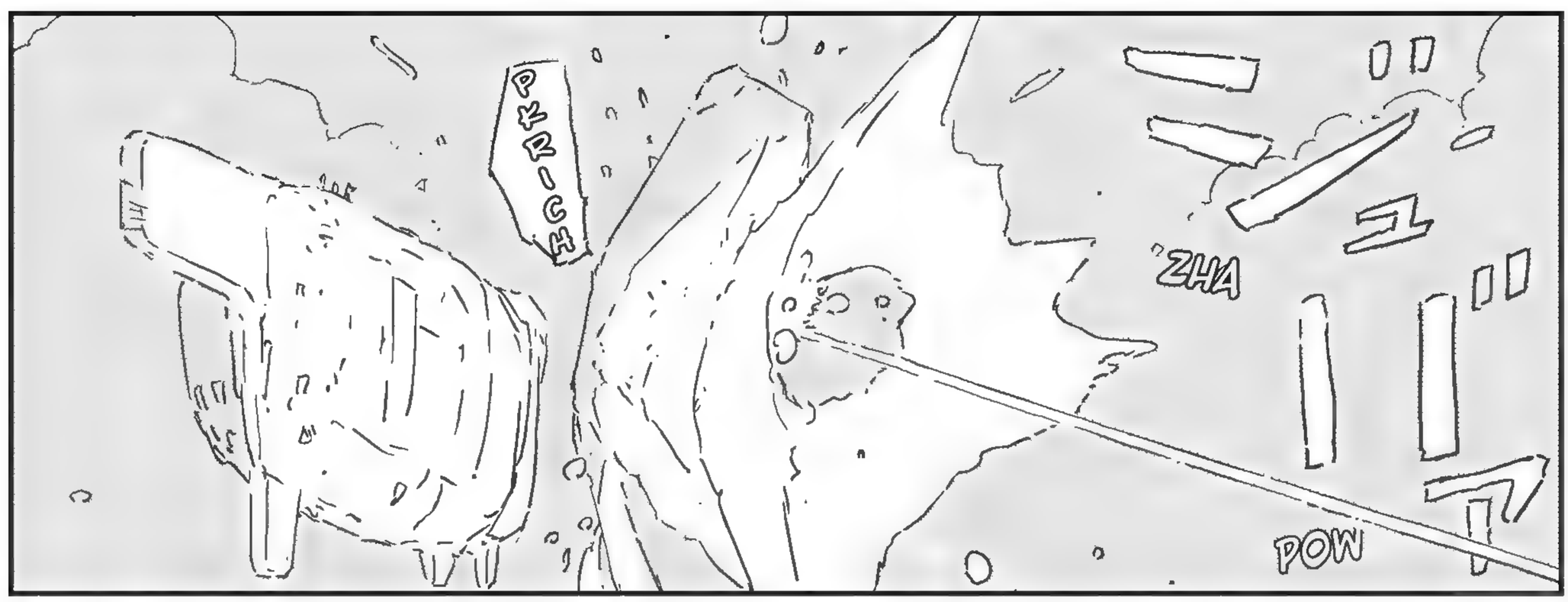

MISUSE OF APOSIMZ EQUIPMENT CONFIRMED.


BEEAAM

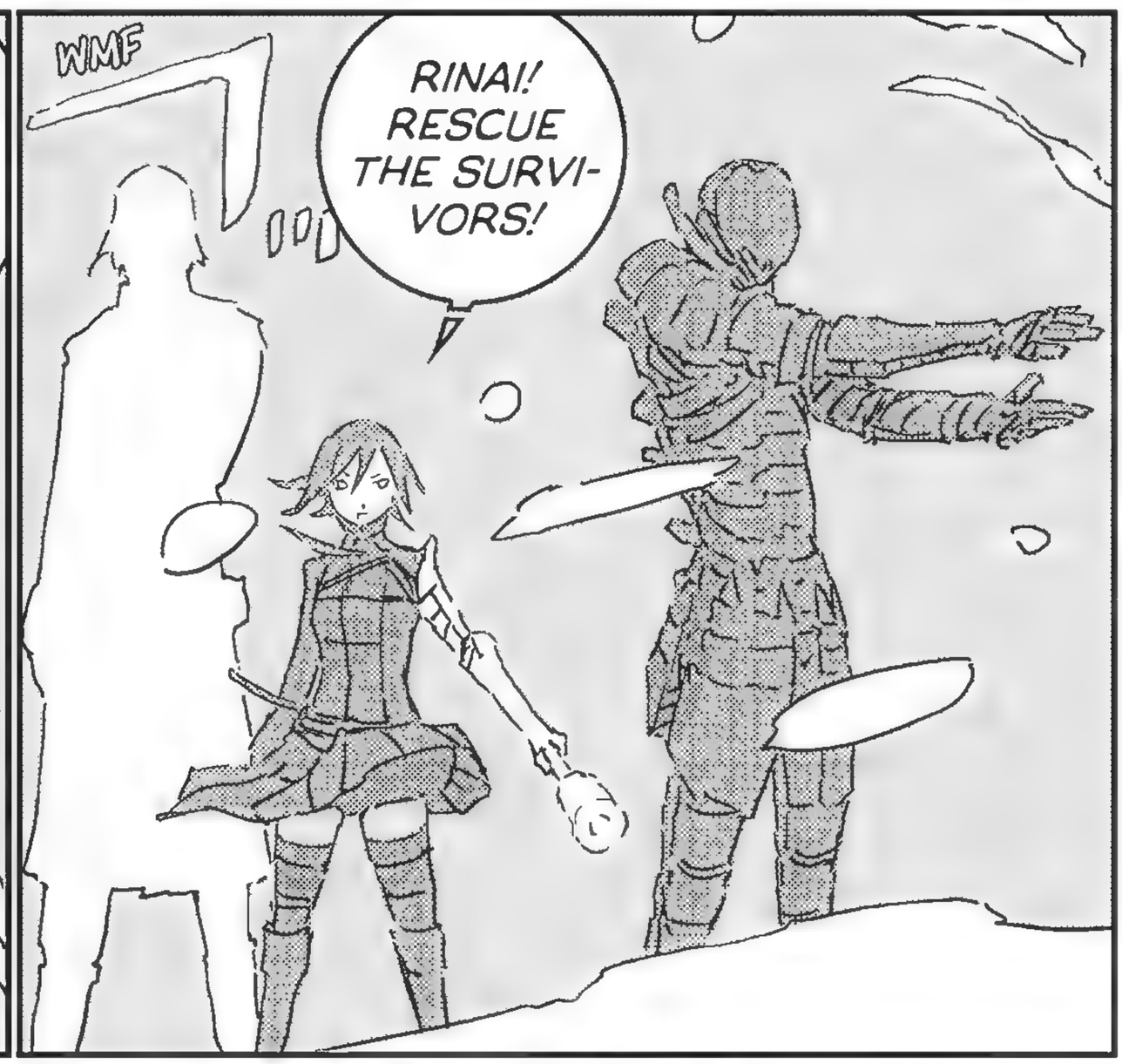


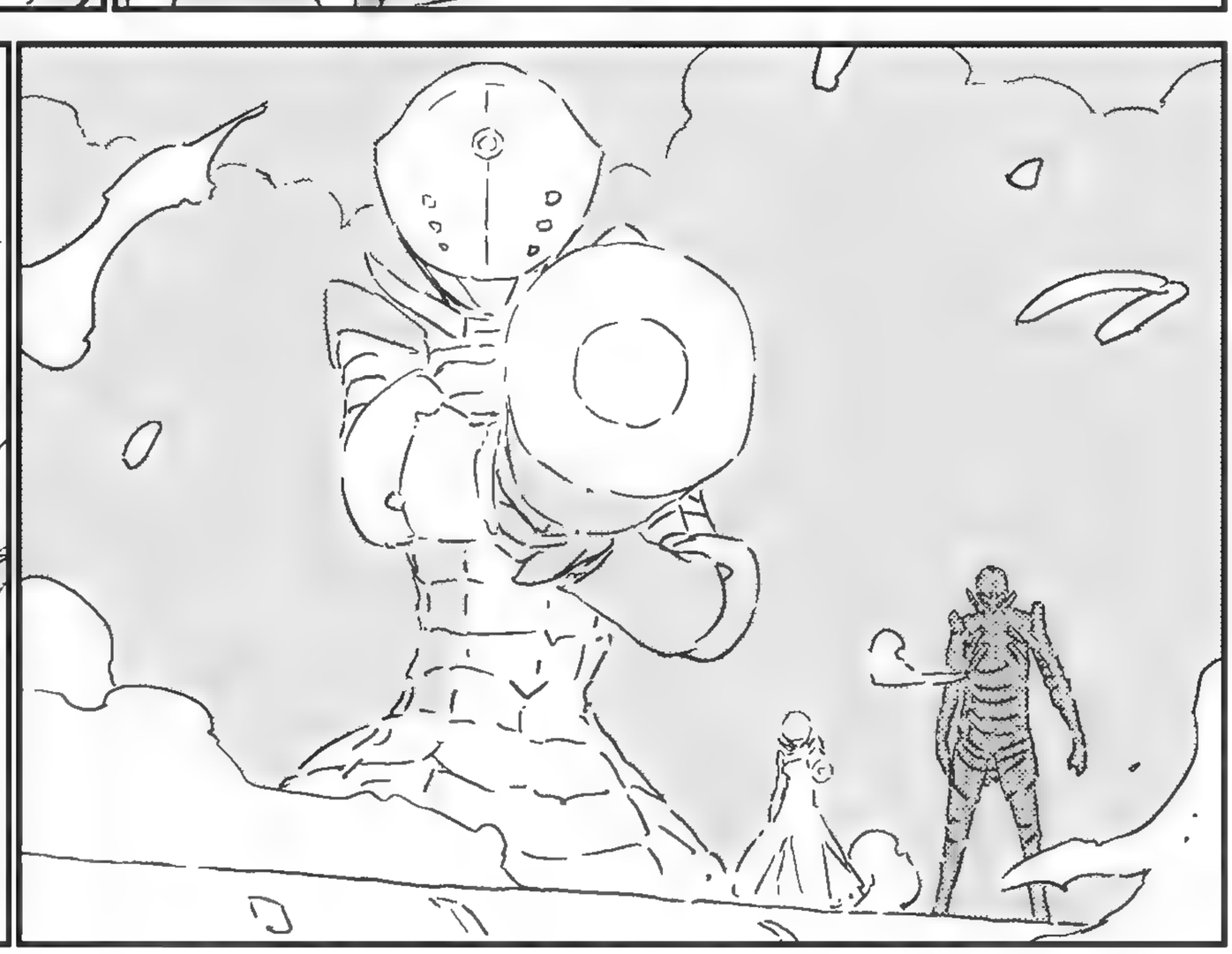

BOO
OOM
RRMMB
KRUMB
KRUMB
KRRMMB

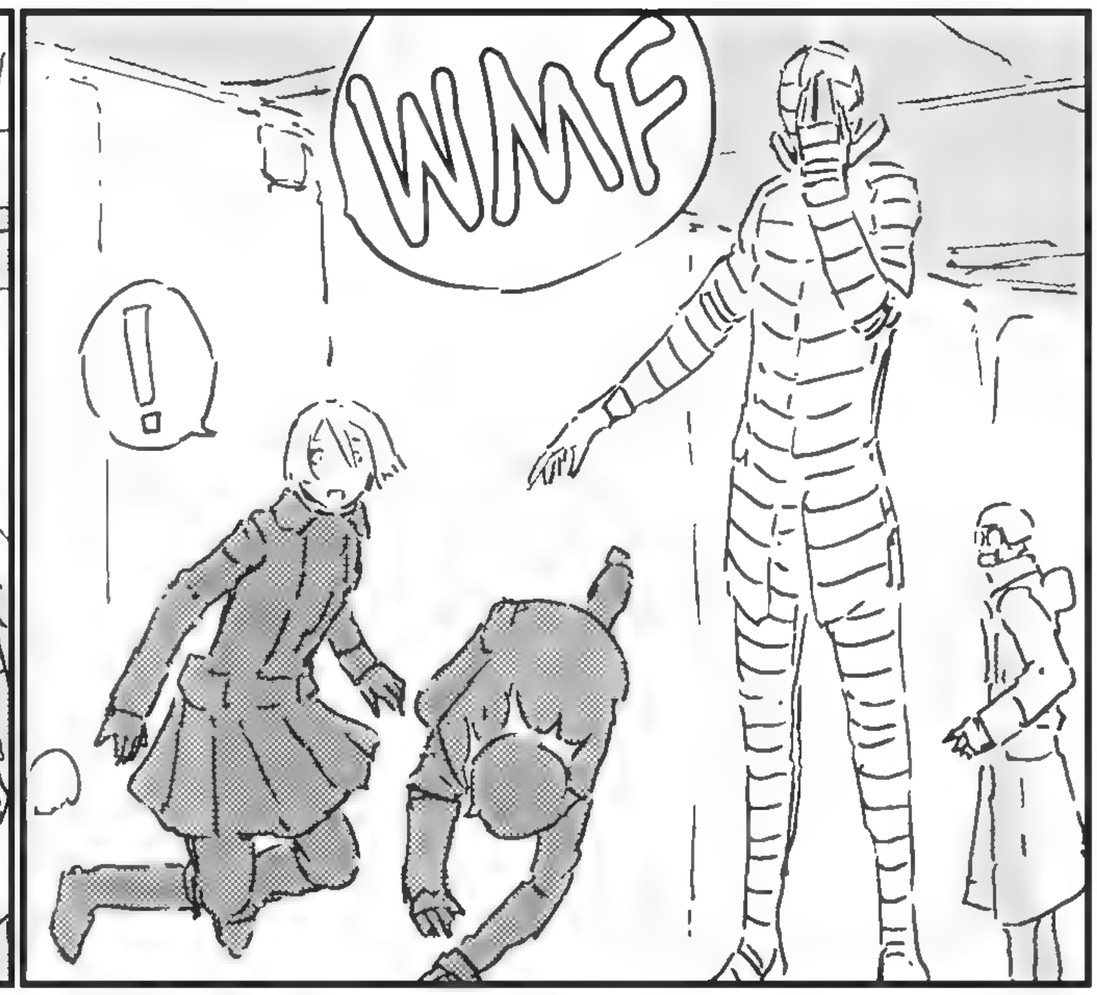

ZHAAAA!
SHUP


PKKKCH
ZHA
POW

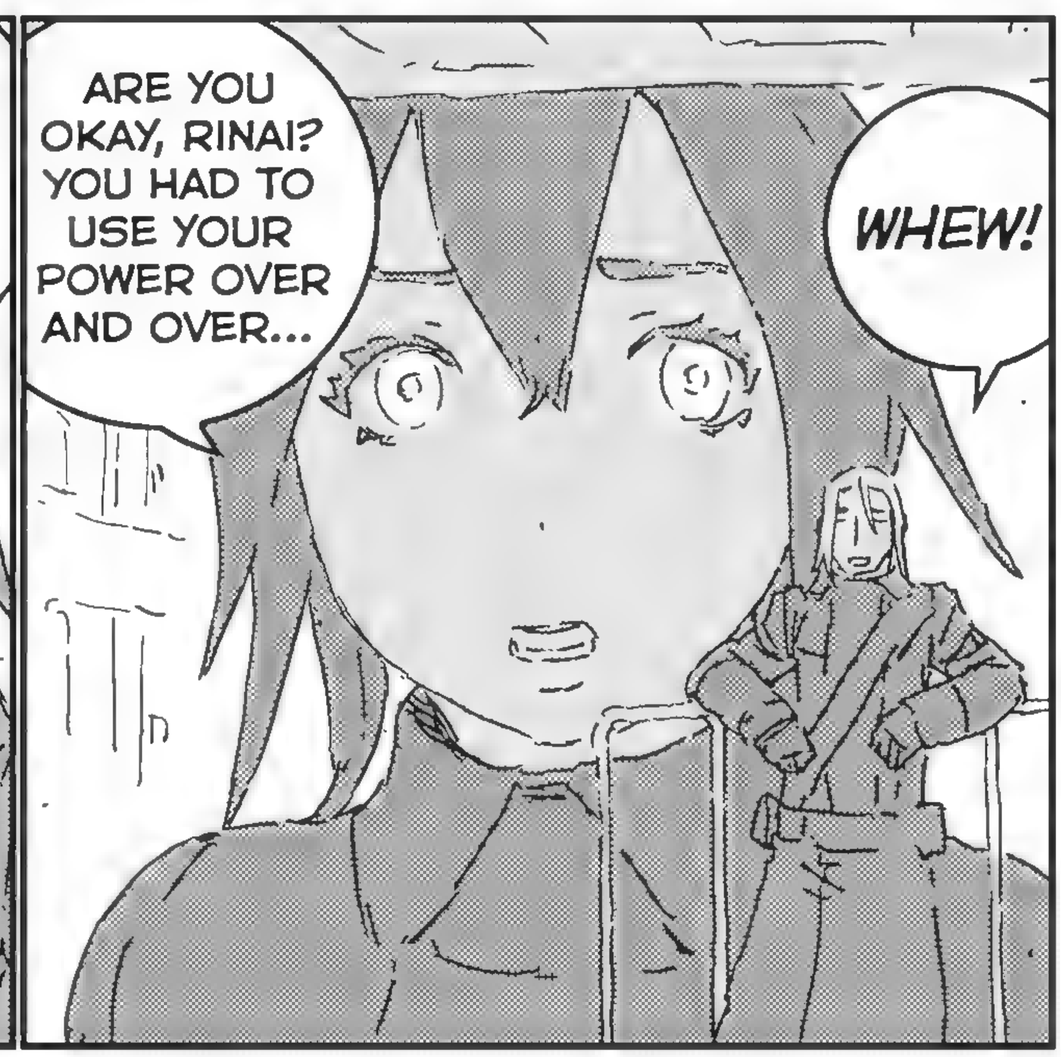
AJATE! HELP GET THE GARDE BACK UNDER-GROUND!
YES'M!!

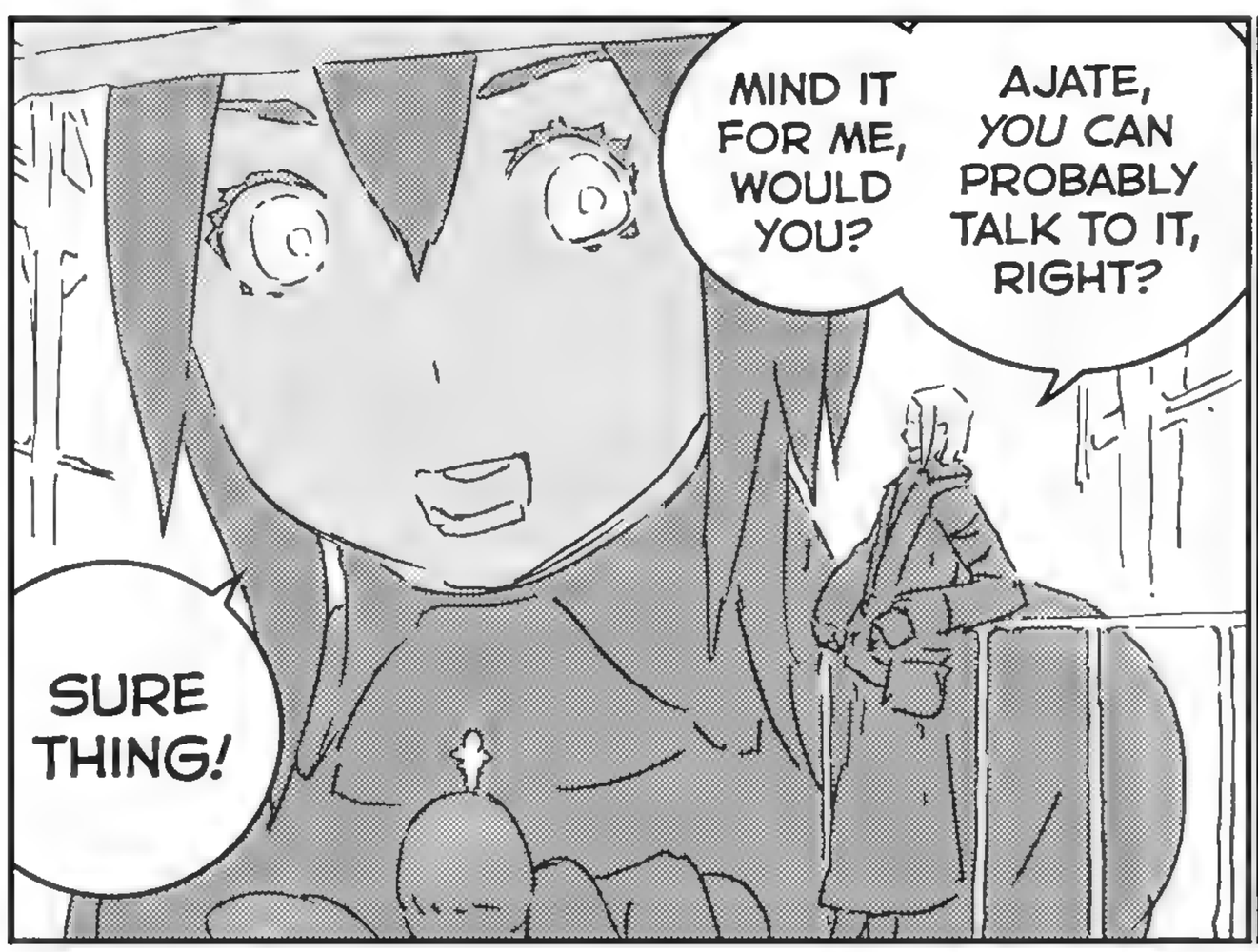

WMF
RINAI! RESCUE THE SURVI-VORS!

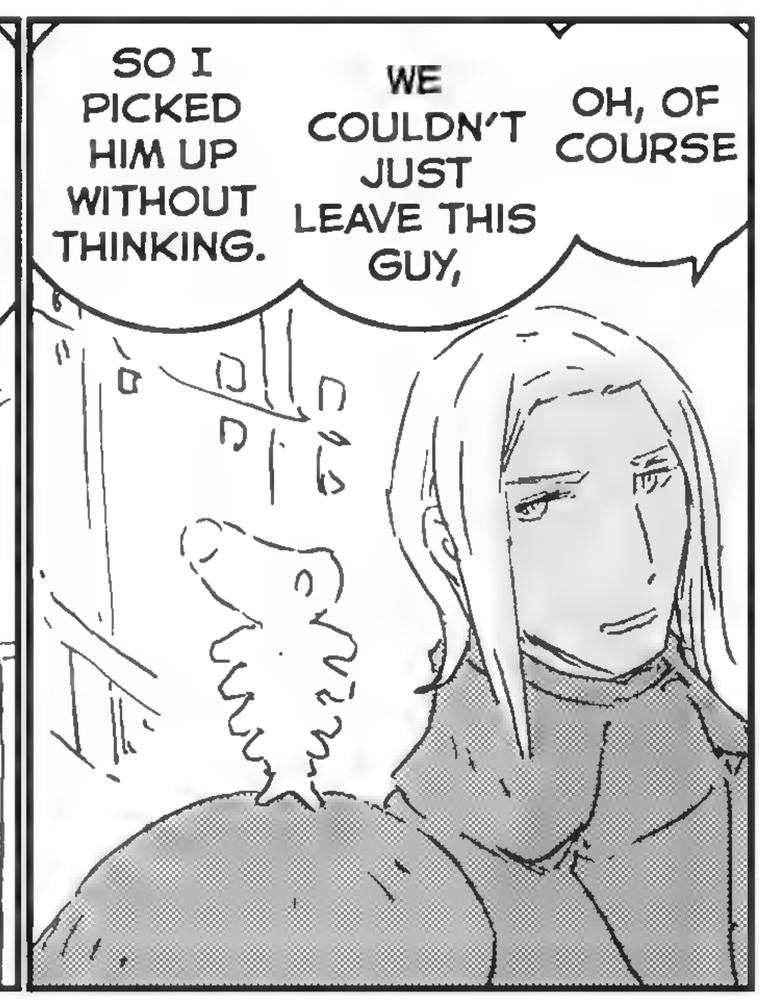


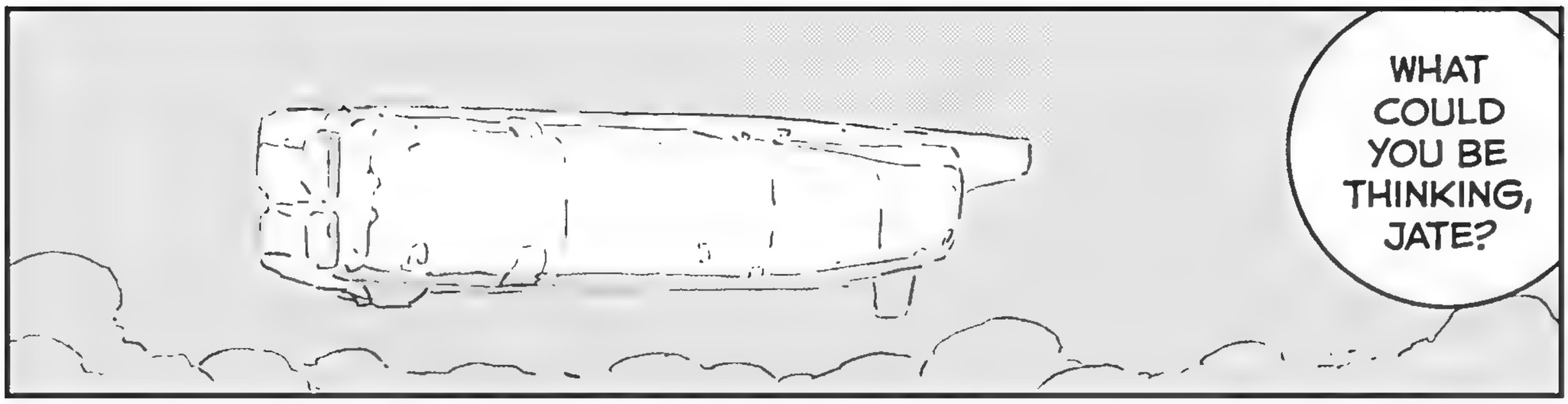

WMF
!

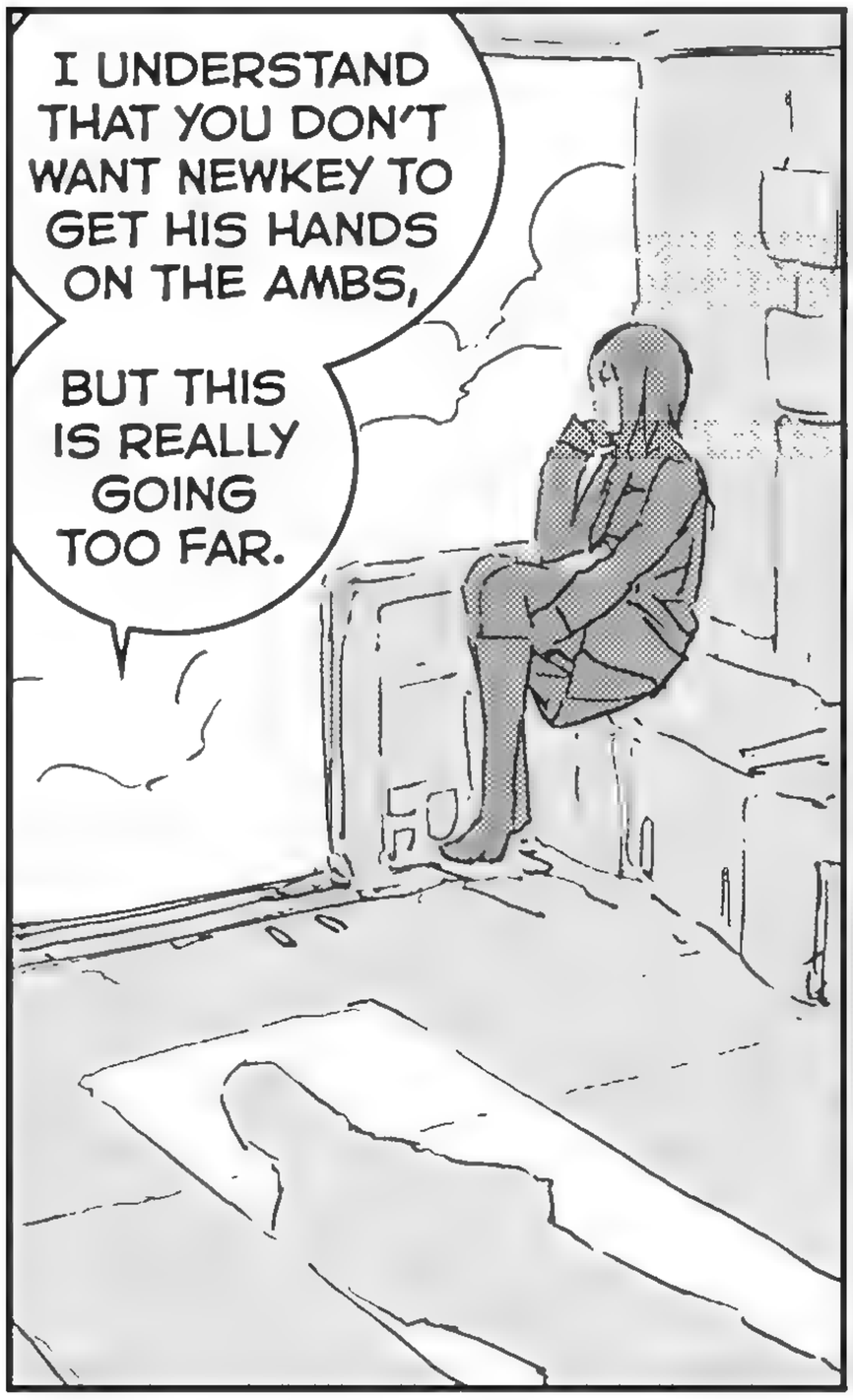
THEY WERE LIGHT AND IT WASN'T FAR, SO I'M FINE.
!

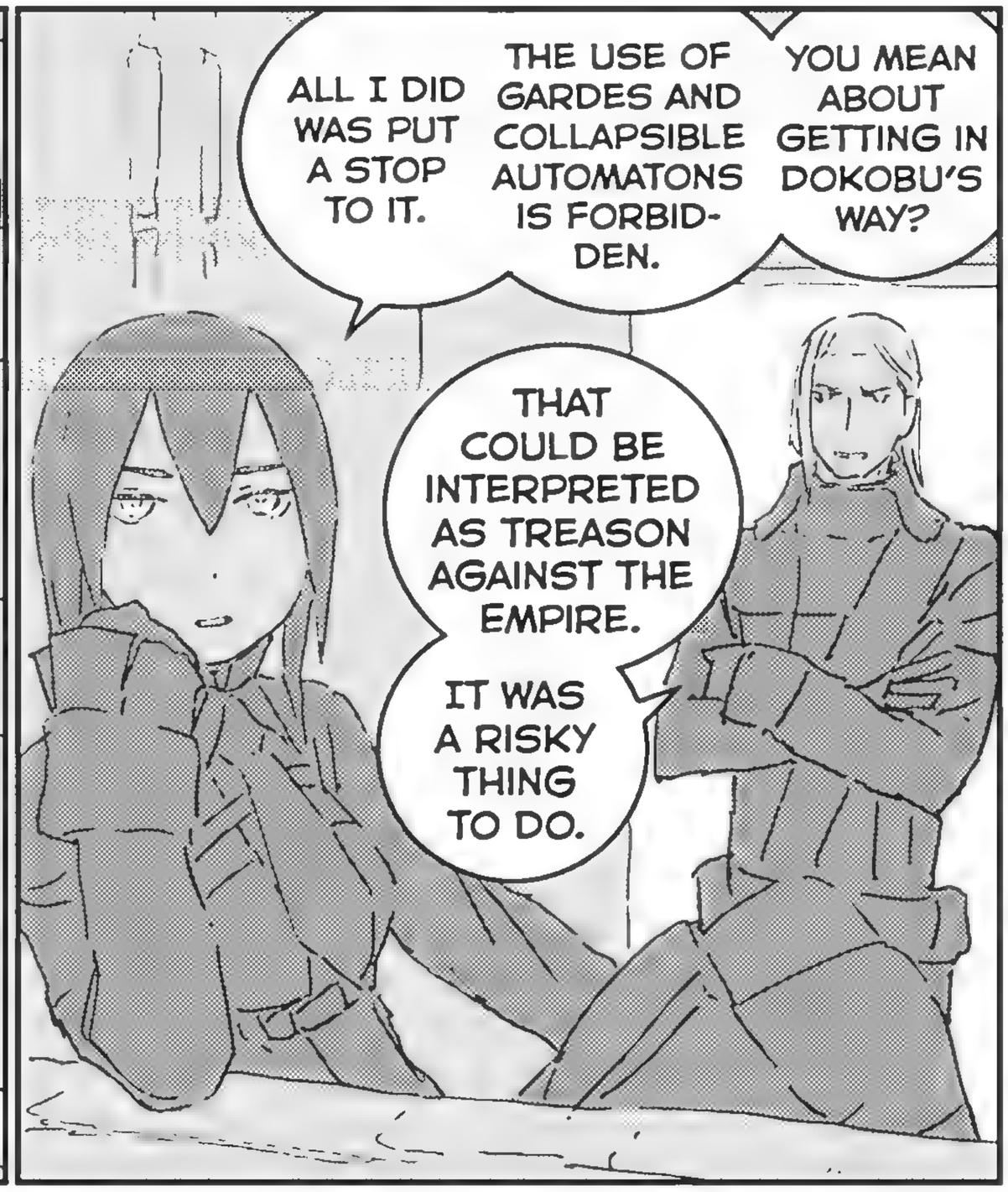

ARE YOU OKAY, RINAI? YOU HAD TO USE YOUR POWER OVER AND OVER...
WHEW!

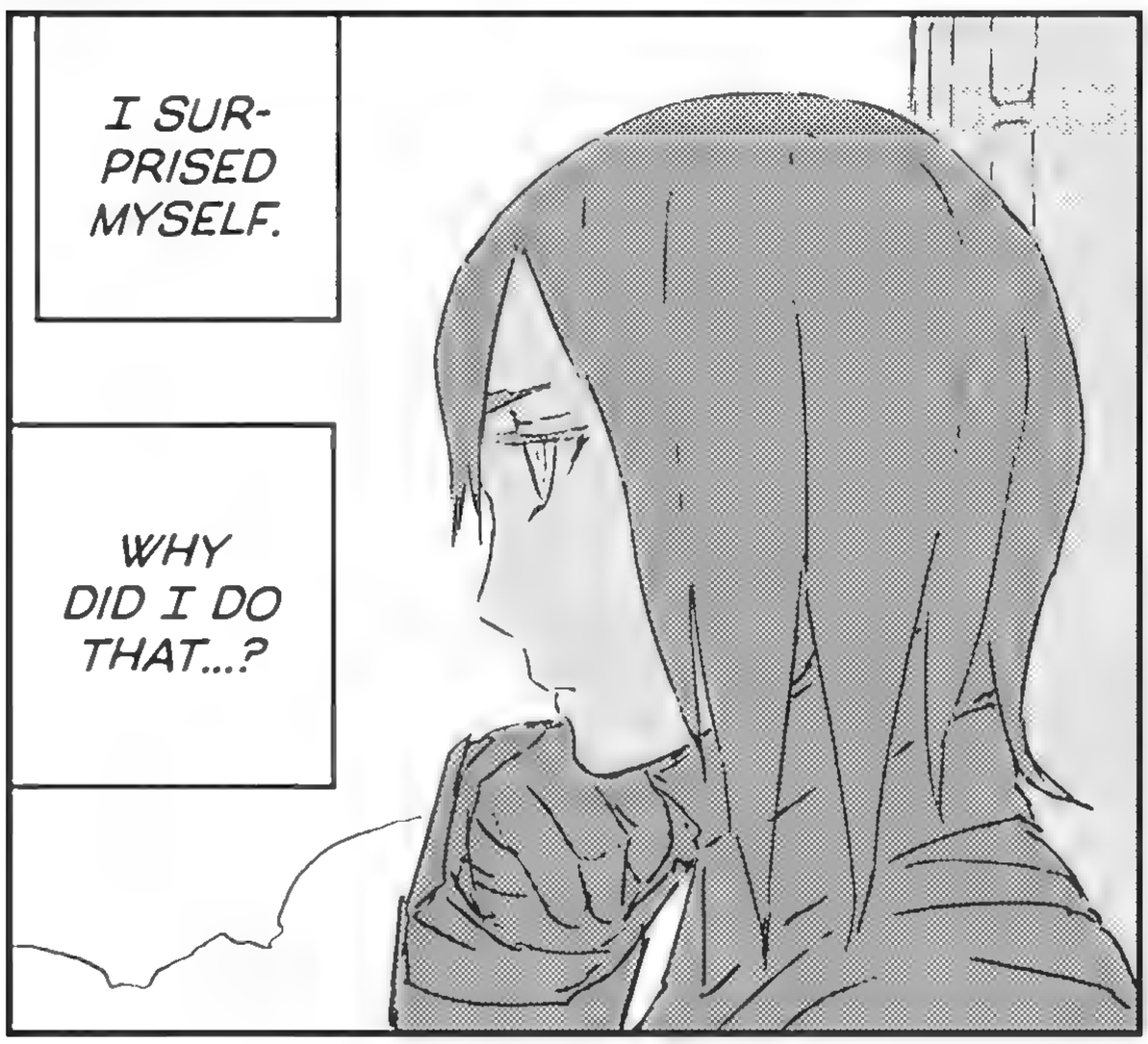

MIND IT FOR ME, WOULD YOU?
AJATE, YOU CAN PROBABLY TALK TO IT, RIGHT?
SURE THING!

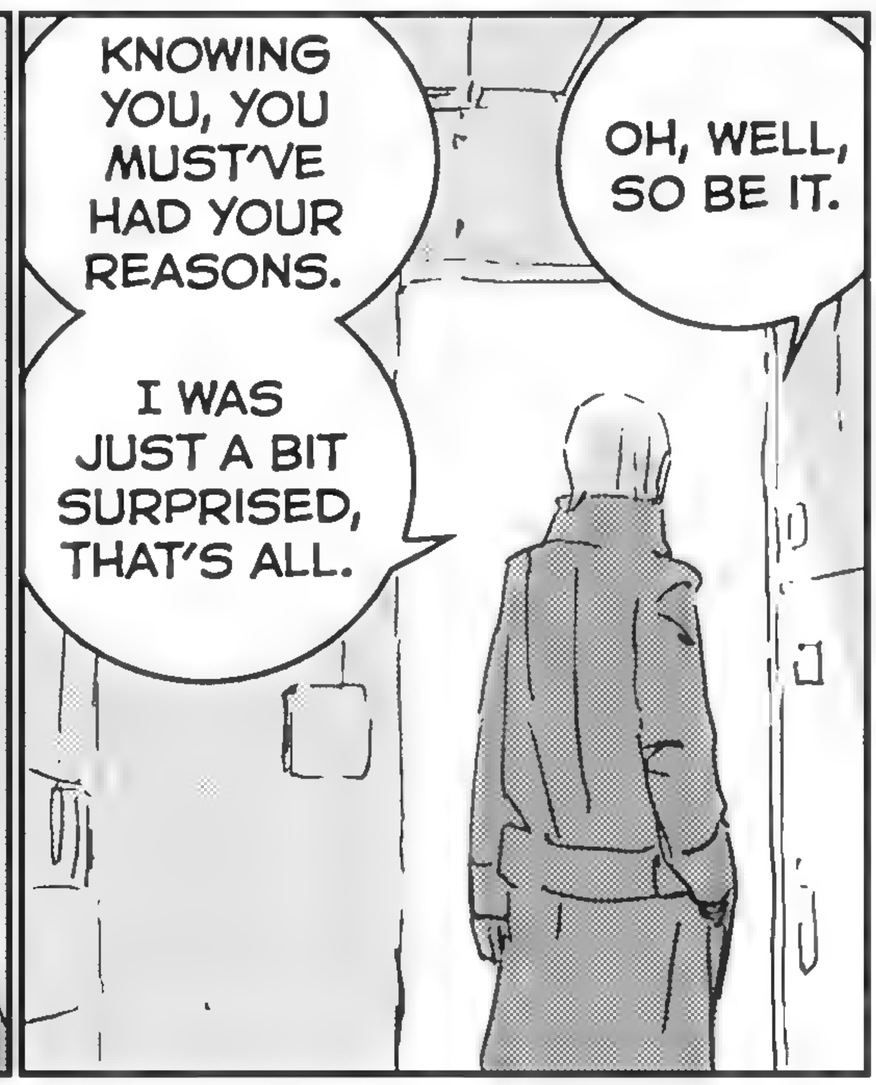

SO I PICKED HIM UP WITHOUT THINKING.
WE COULDN'T JUST LEAVE THIS GUY,
OH, OF COURSE

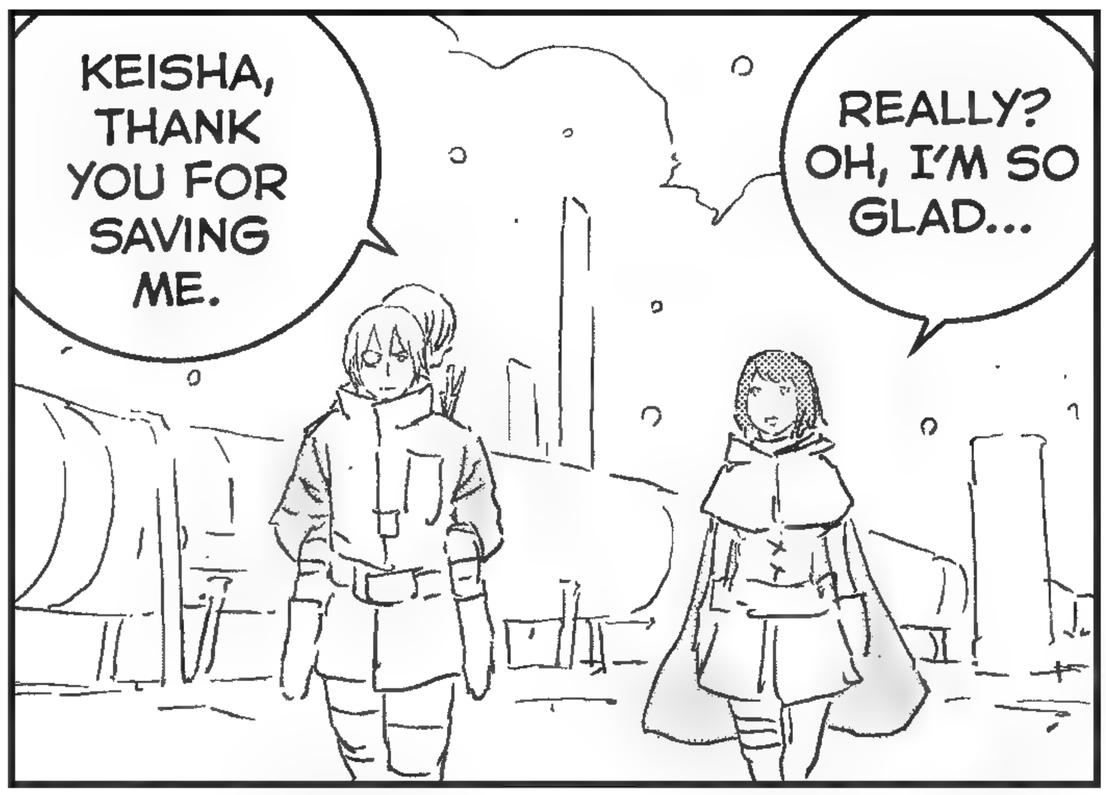

WHAT COULD YOU BE THINKING, JATE?

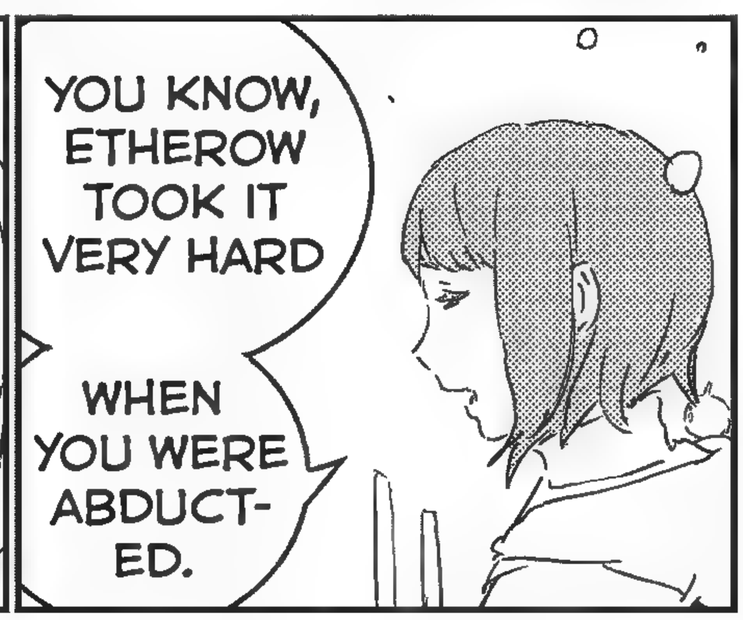

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DON'T WANT NEWKEY TO GET HIS HANDS ON THE AMBS,
BUT THIS IS REALLY GOING TOO FAR.

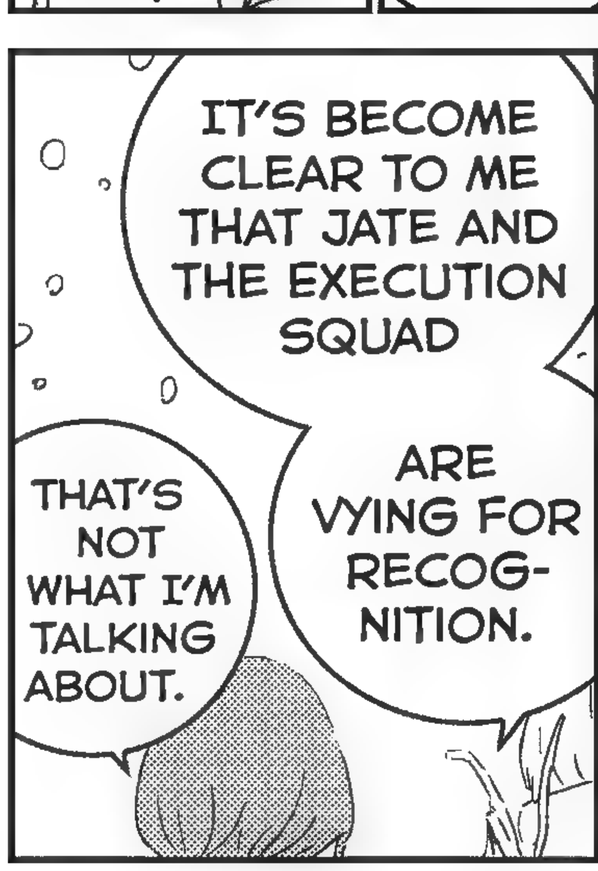

ALL I DID WAS PUT A STOP TO IT.
THE USE OF GARDES AND COLLAPSIBLE AUTOMATONS IS FORBID-DEN.
YOU MEAN ABOUT GETTING IN DOKOBU'S WAY?
THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS TREASON AGAINST THE EMPIRE.
IT WAS A RISKY THING TO DO.

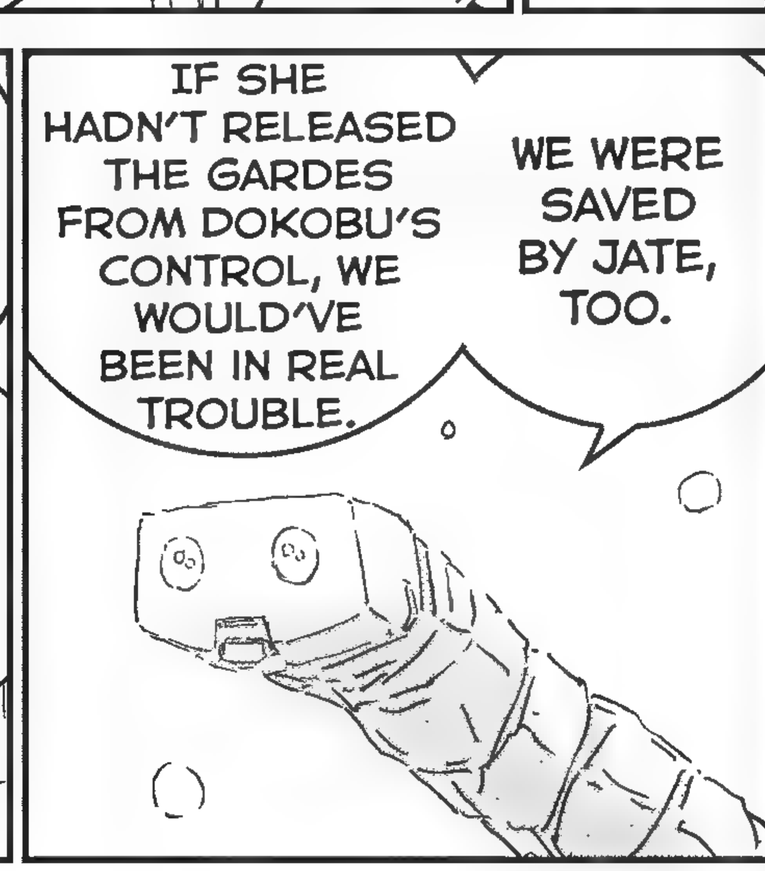

I SUR-PRISED MYSELF.
WHY DID I DO THAT...?

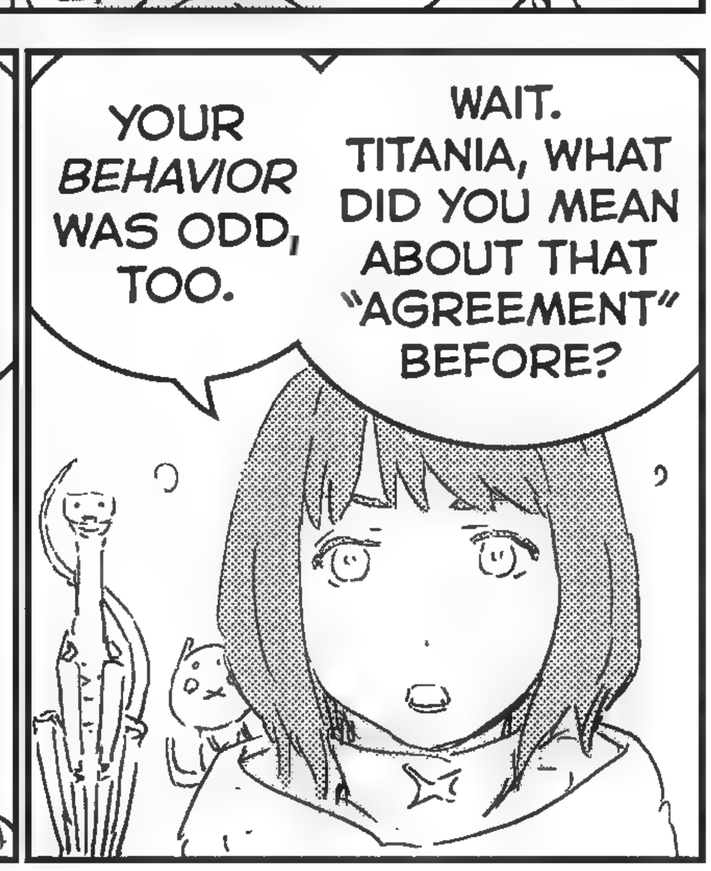

KNOWING YOU, YOU MUST'VE HAD YOUR REASONS.
I WAS JUST A BIT SURPRISED, THAT'S ALL.
OH, WELL, SO BE IT.

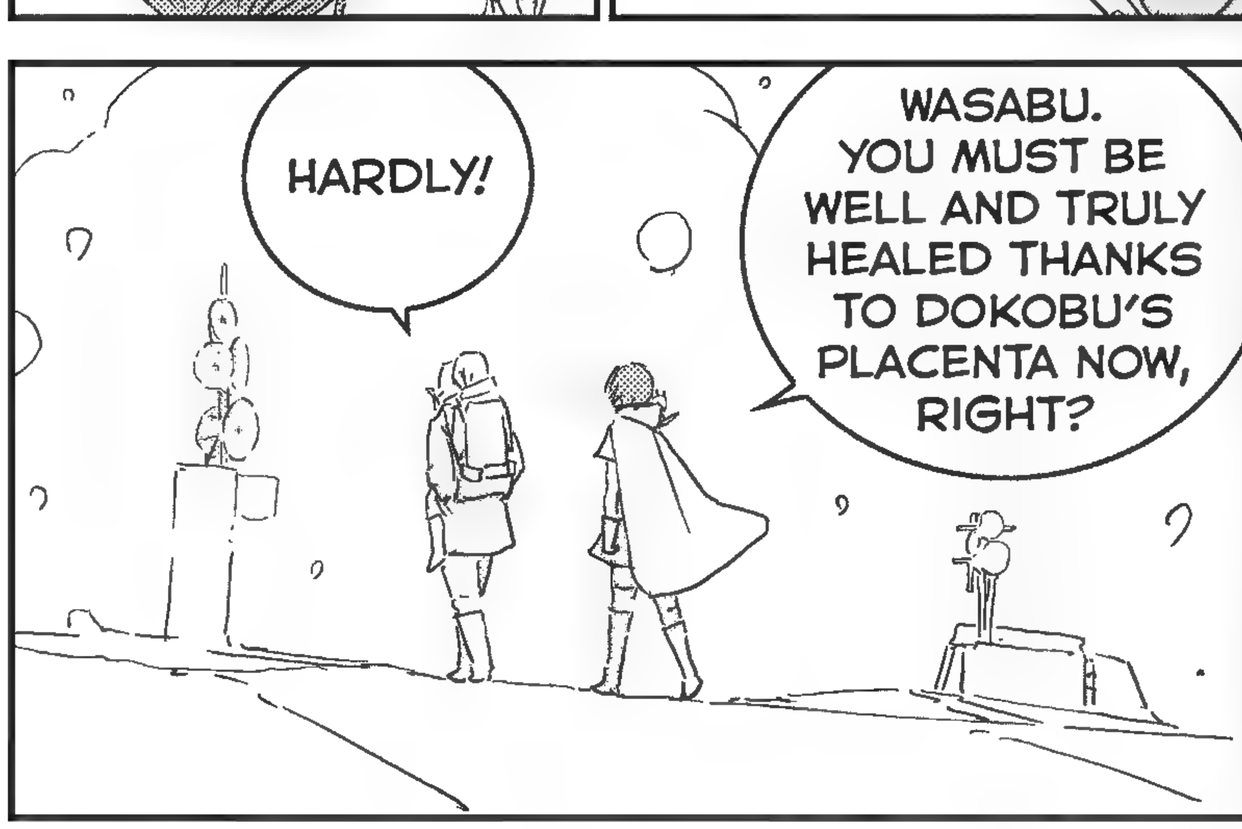


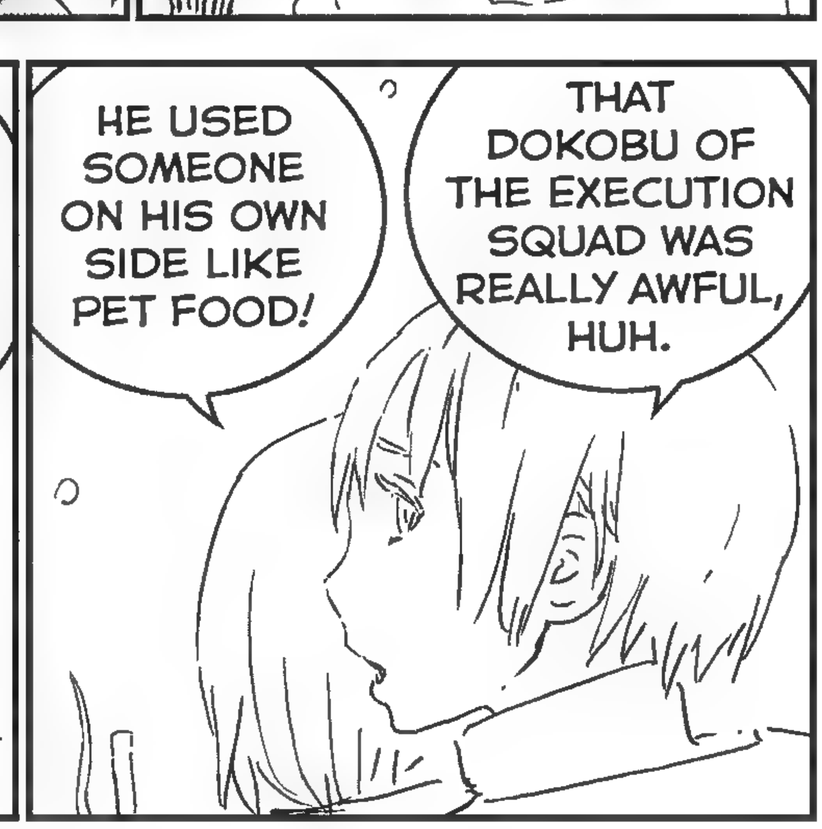






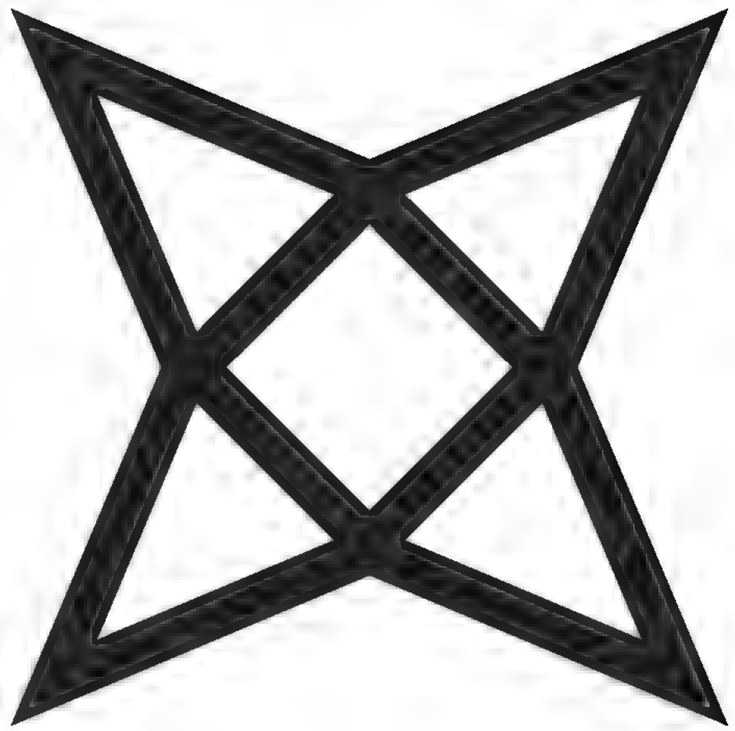




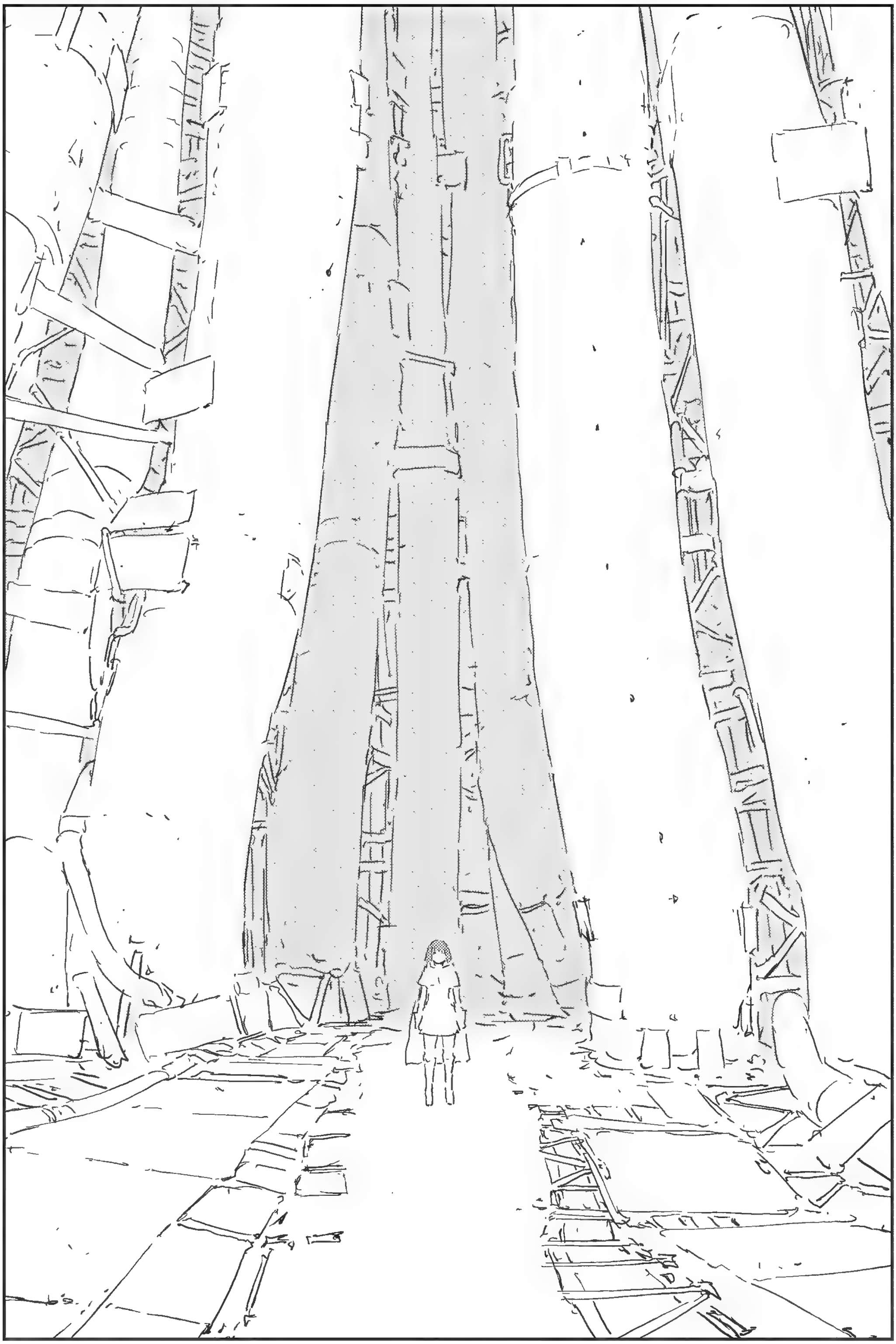


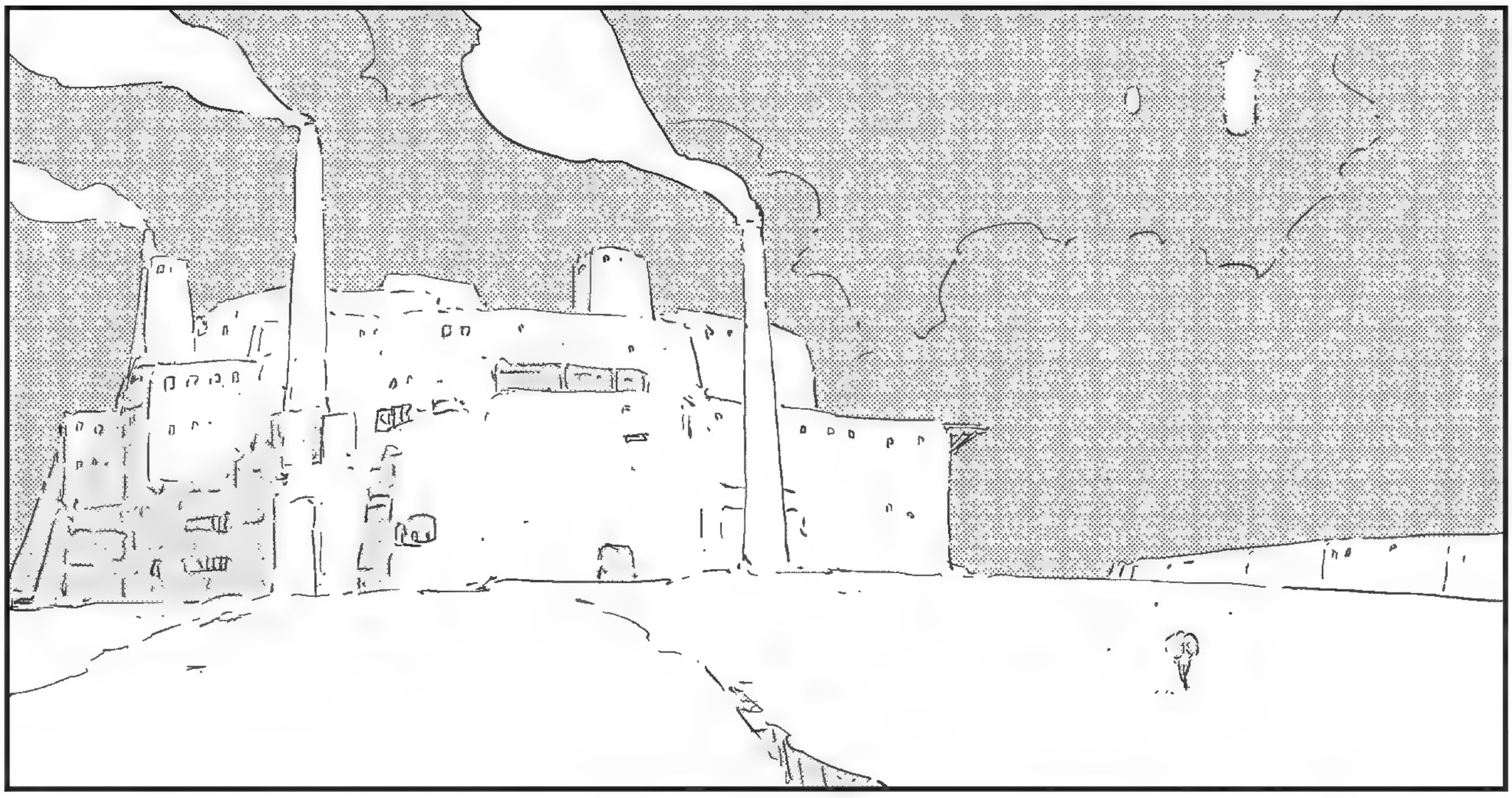
CHAPTER 49 END

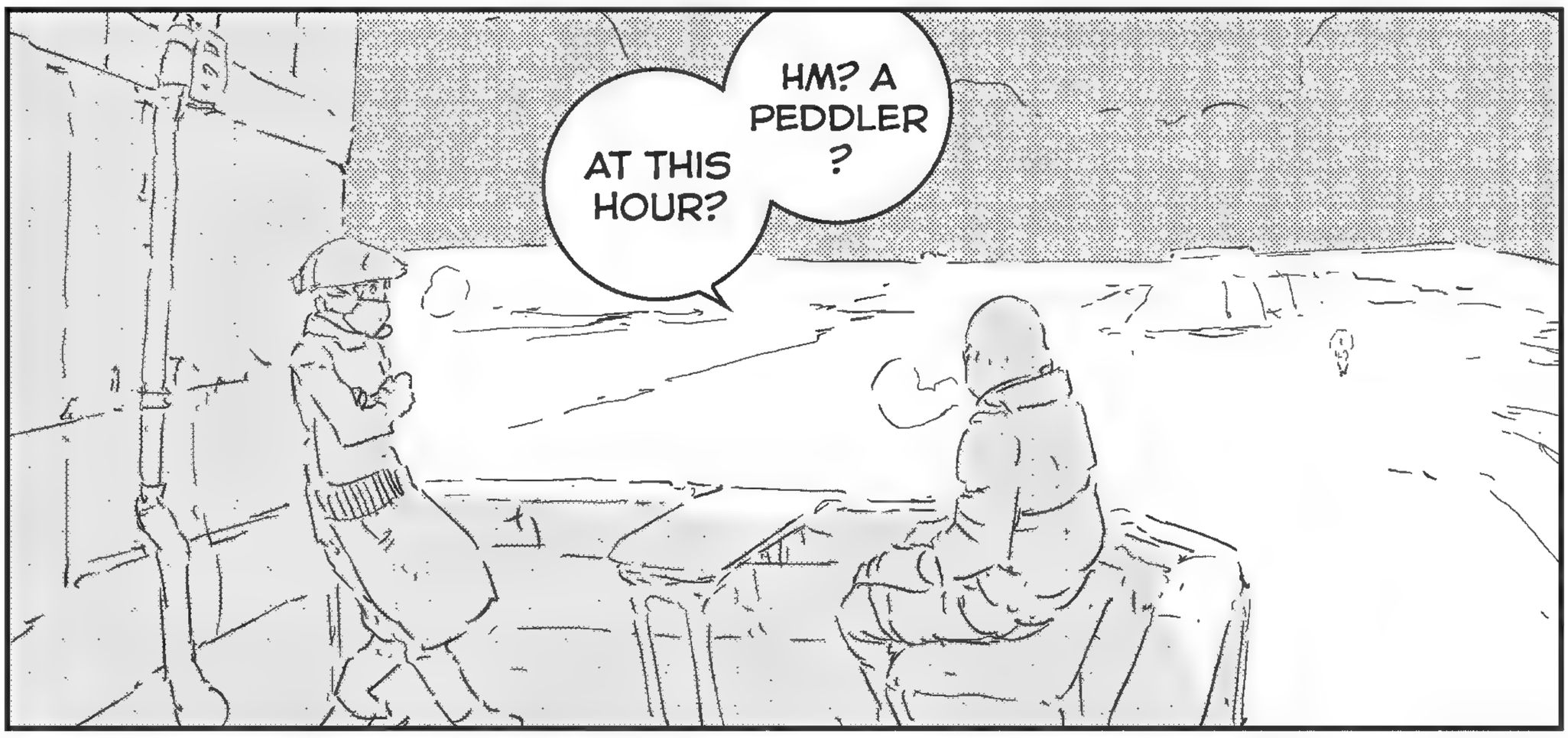
APOSIMZ

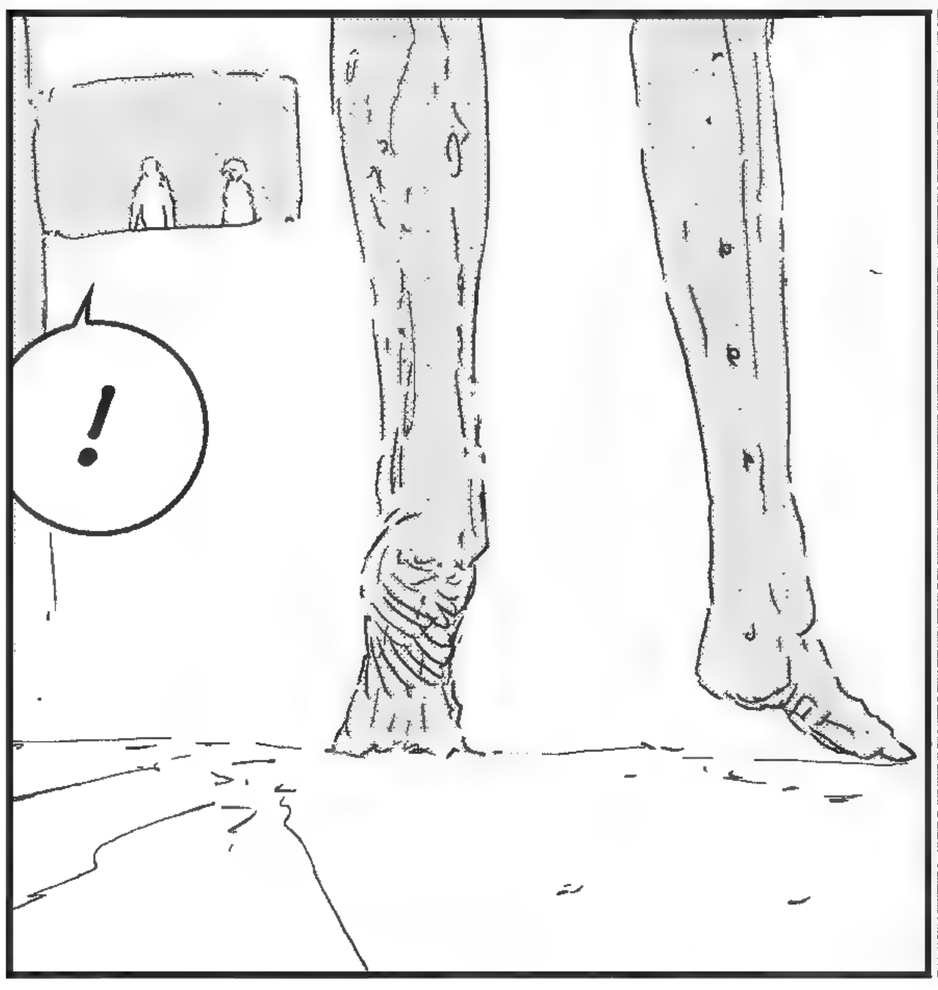


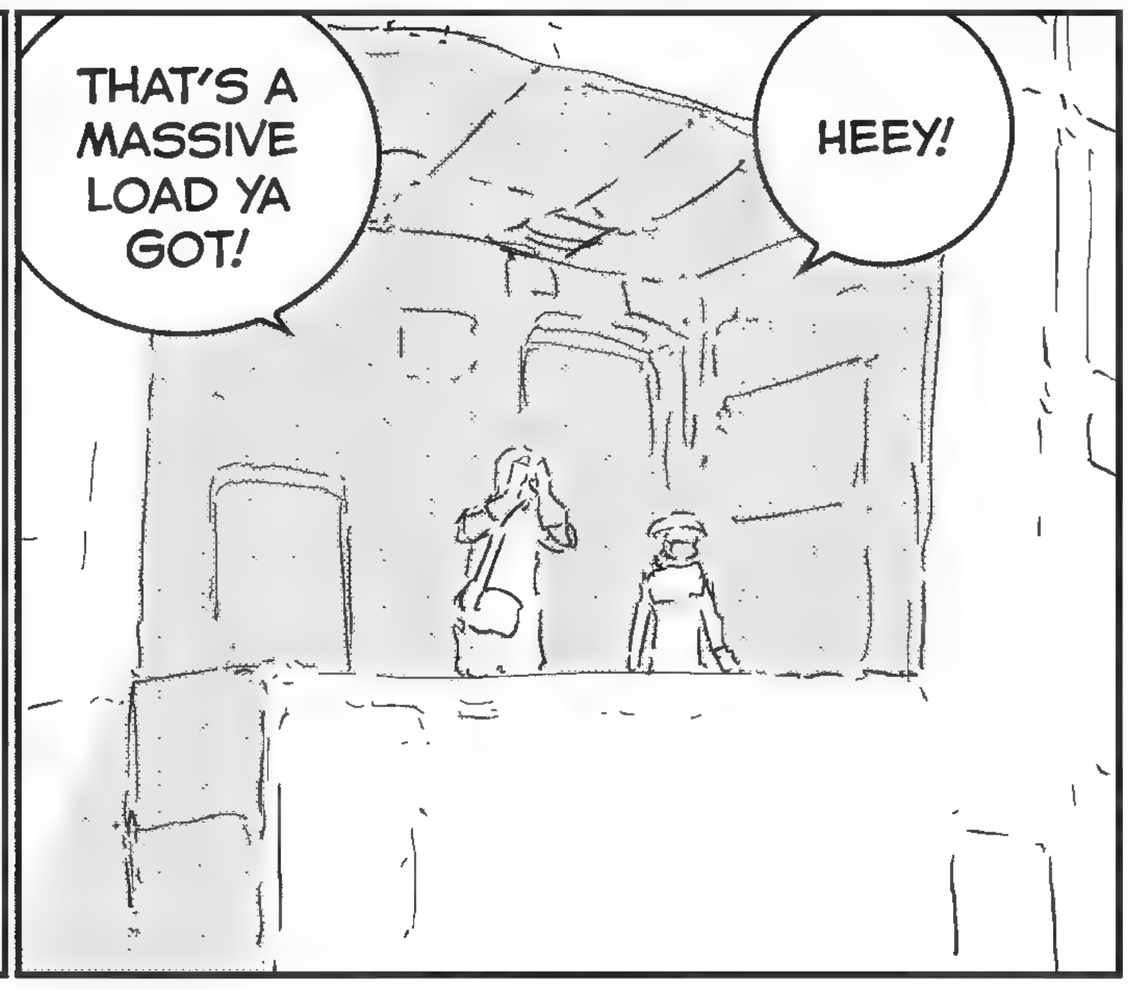
CHAPTER 50

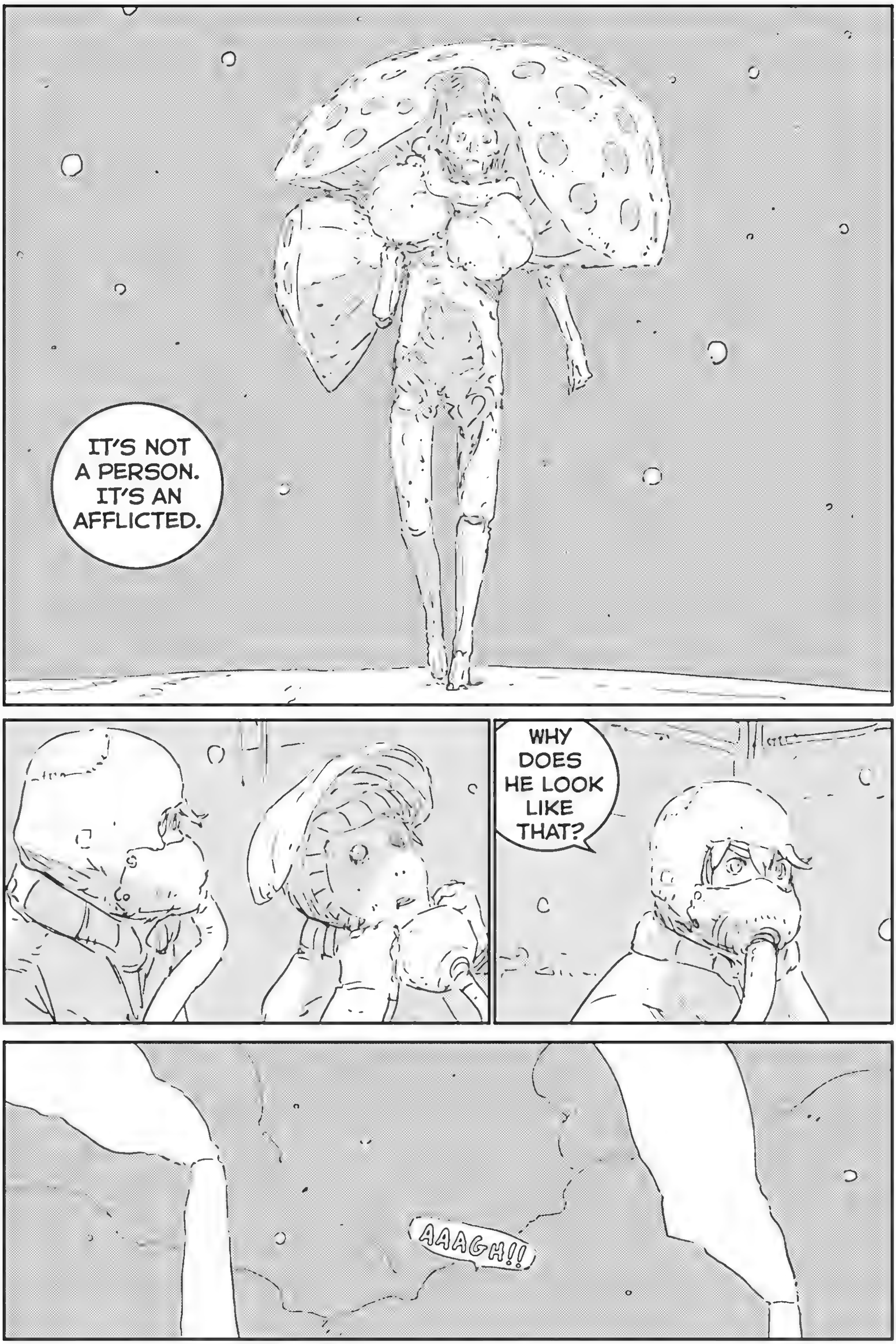


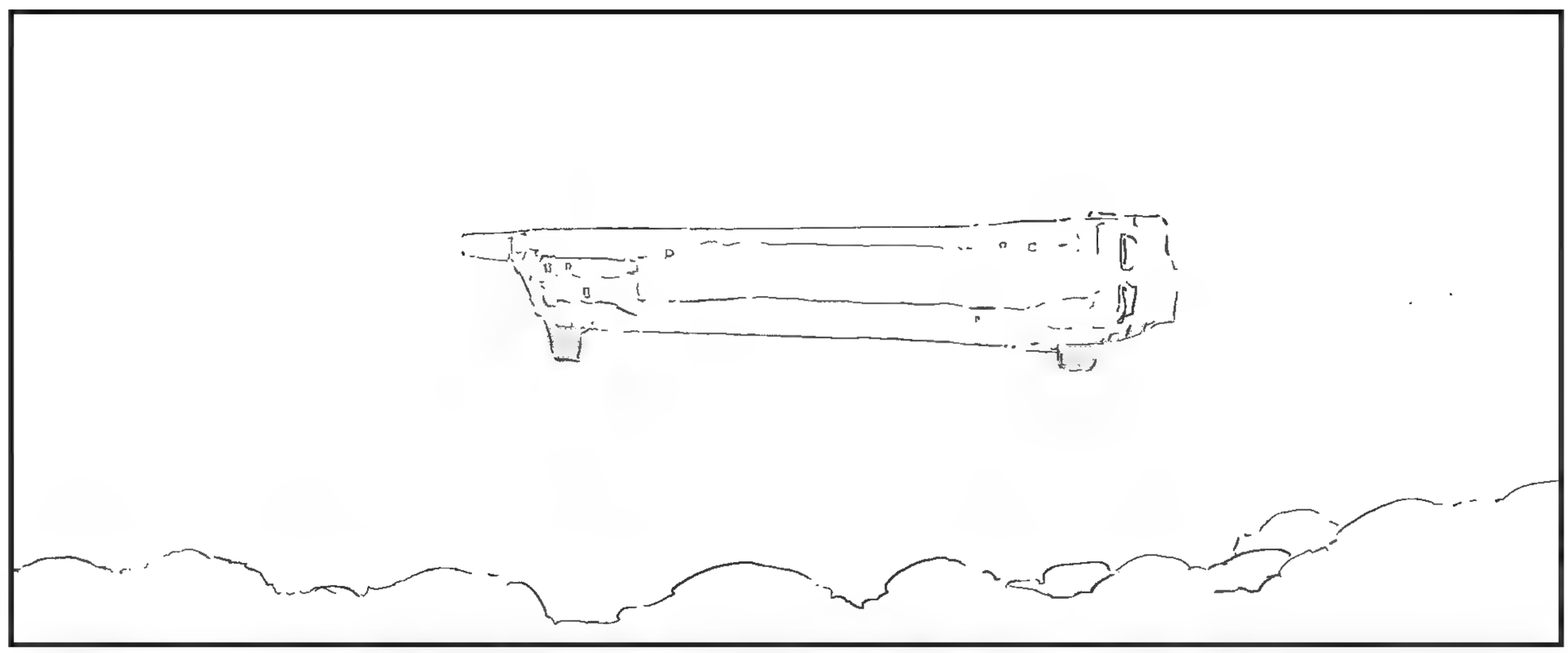


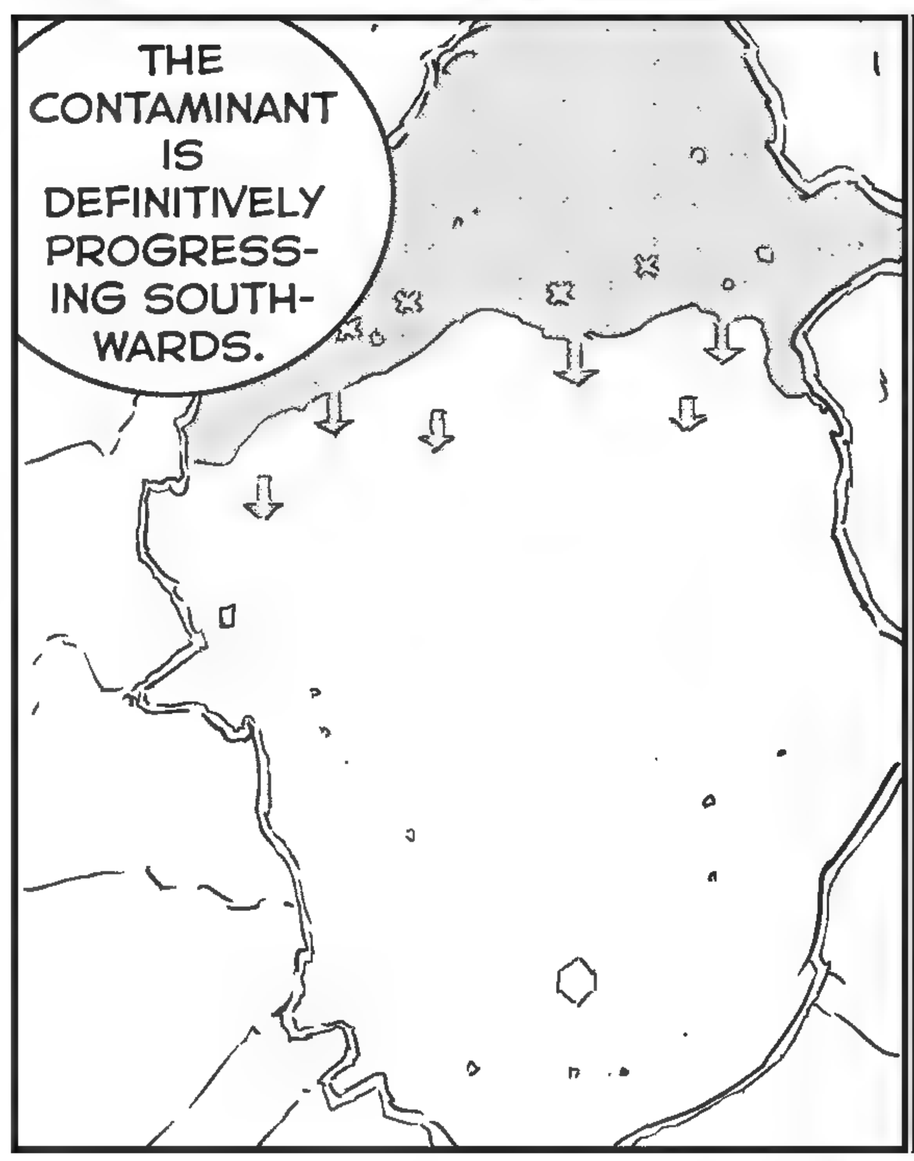

HM? A PEDDLER ?
AT THIS HOUR?


!


THAT'S A MASSIVE LOAD YA GOT!
HEEY!

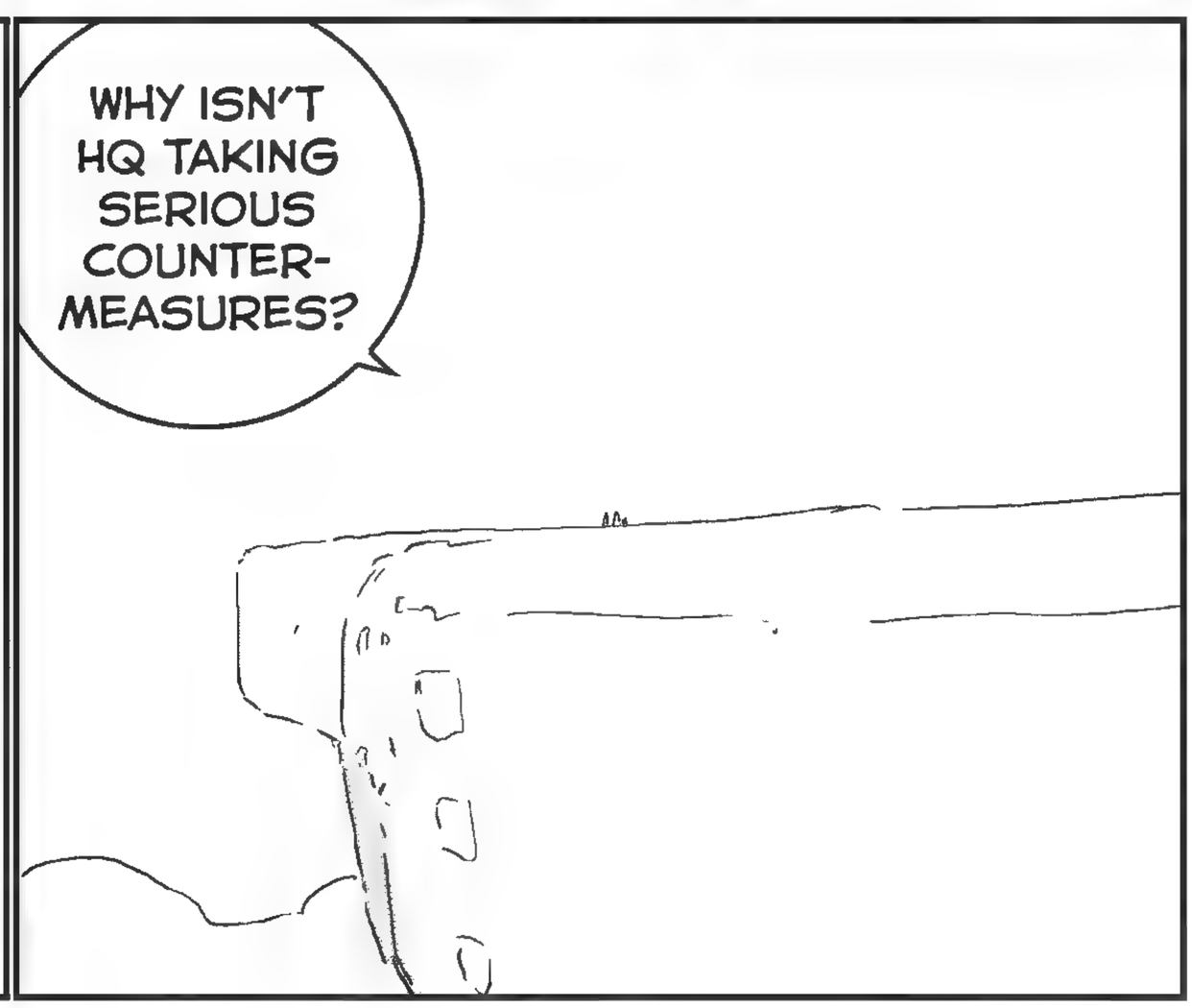

IT'S NOT A PERSON. IT'S AN AFFLICTED.
WHY DOES HE LOOK LIKE THAT?
AAAGH!!

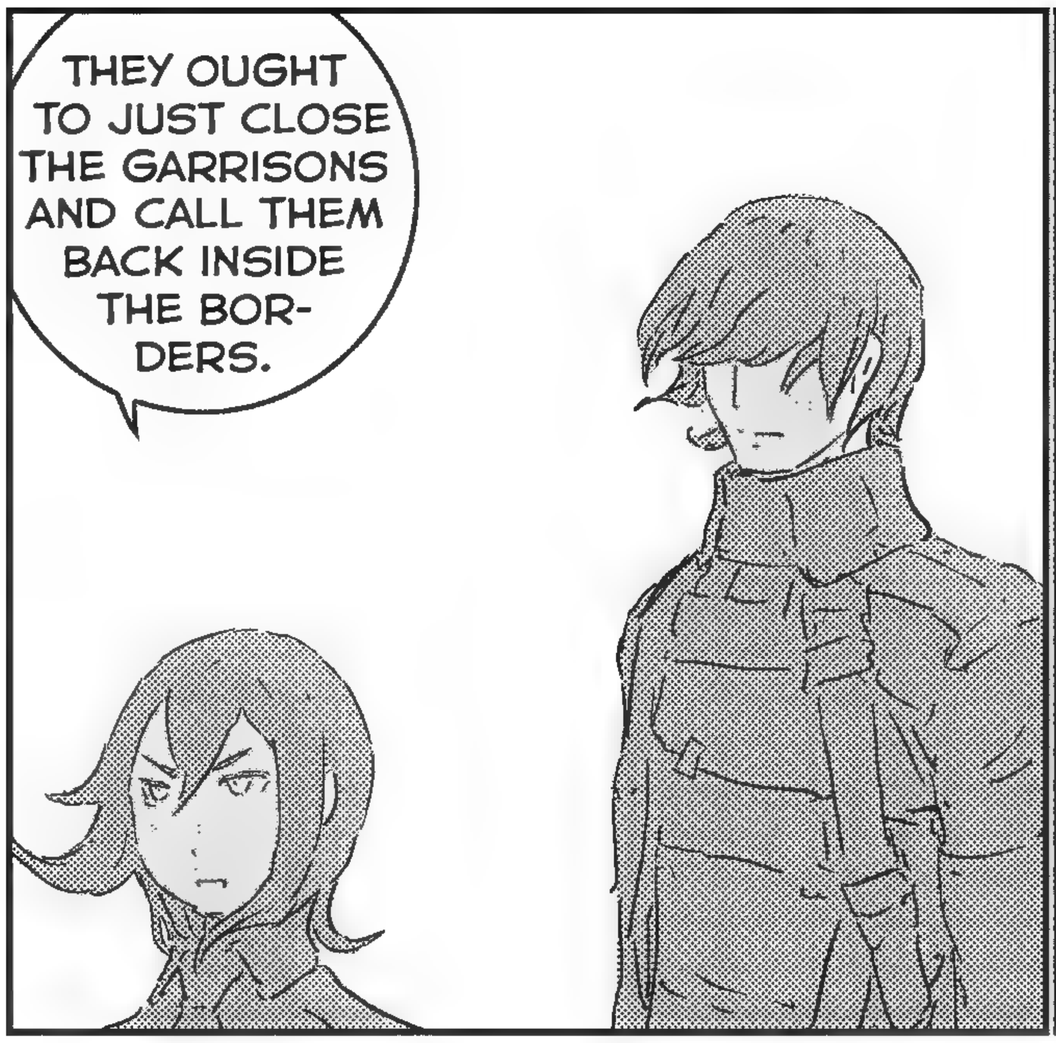



THE CONTAMINANT IS DEFINITIVELY PROGRESSING SOUTHWARDS.

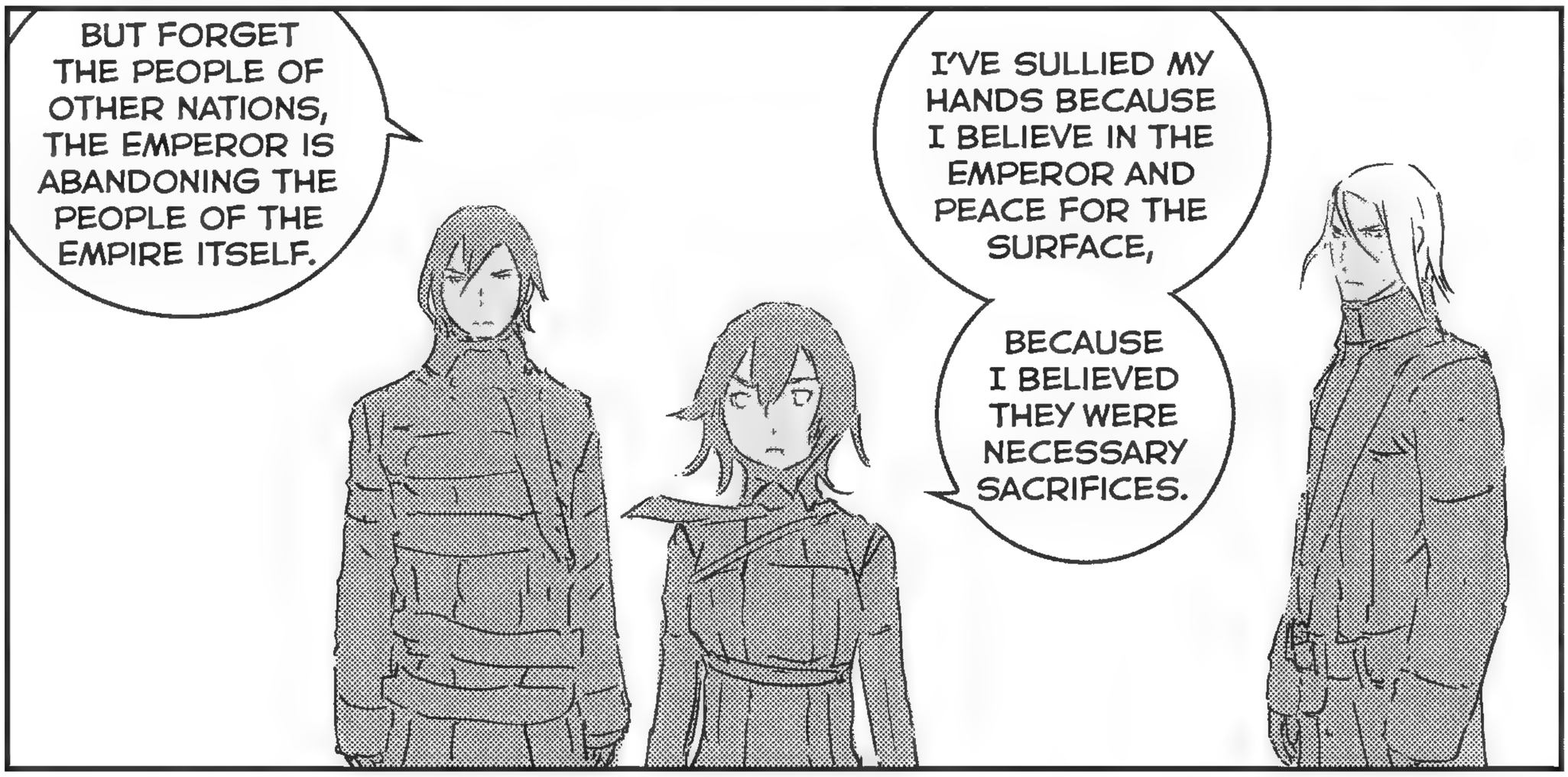
LAST NIGHT ALONE, ONE MEDIUM-SIZED CITY AND THREE SMALL ONES WERE STRUCK.

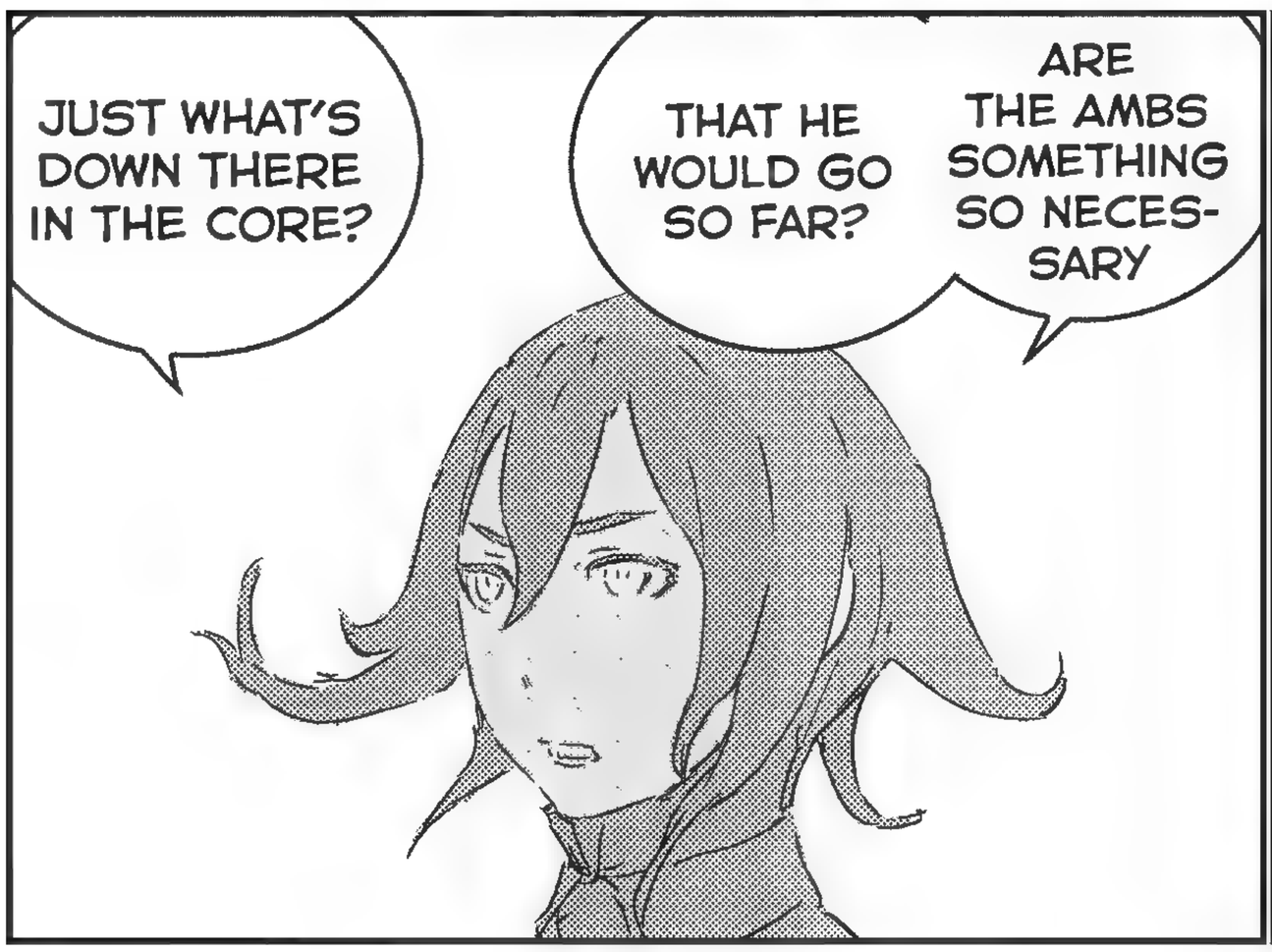
AT THIS RATE, EVERYONE REALLY WILL BECOME INFECTED.


WHY ISN'T HQ TAKING SERIOUS COUNTER-MEASURES?

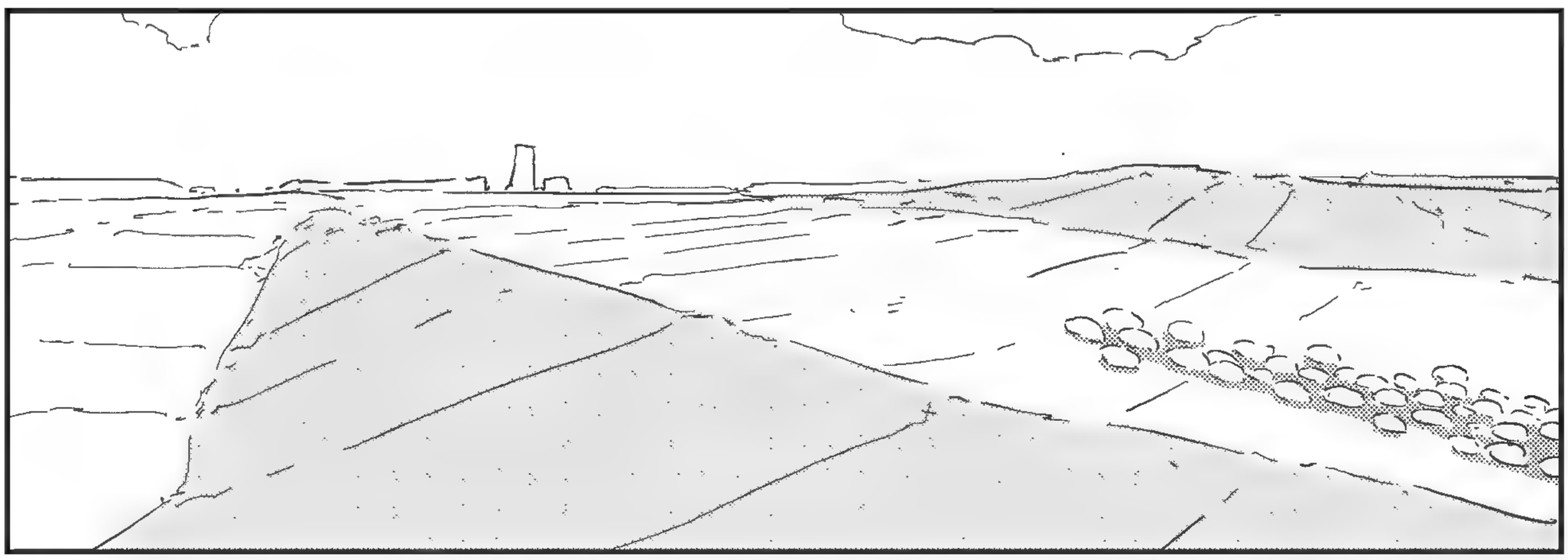

THEY OUGHT TO JUST CLOSE THE GARRISONS AND CALL THEM BACK INSIDE THE BOR-DERS.

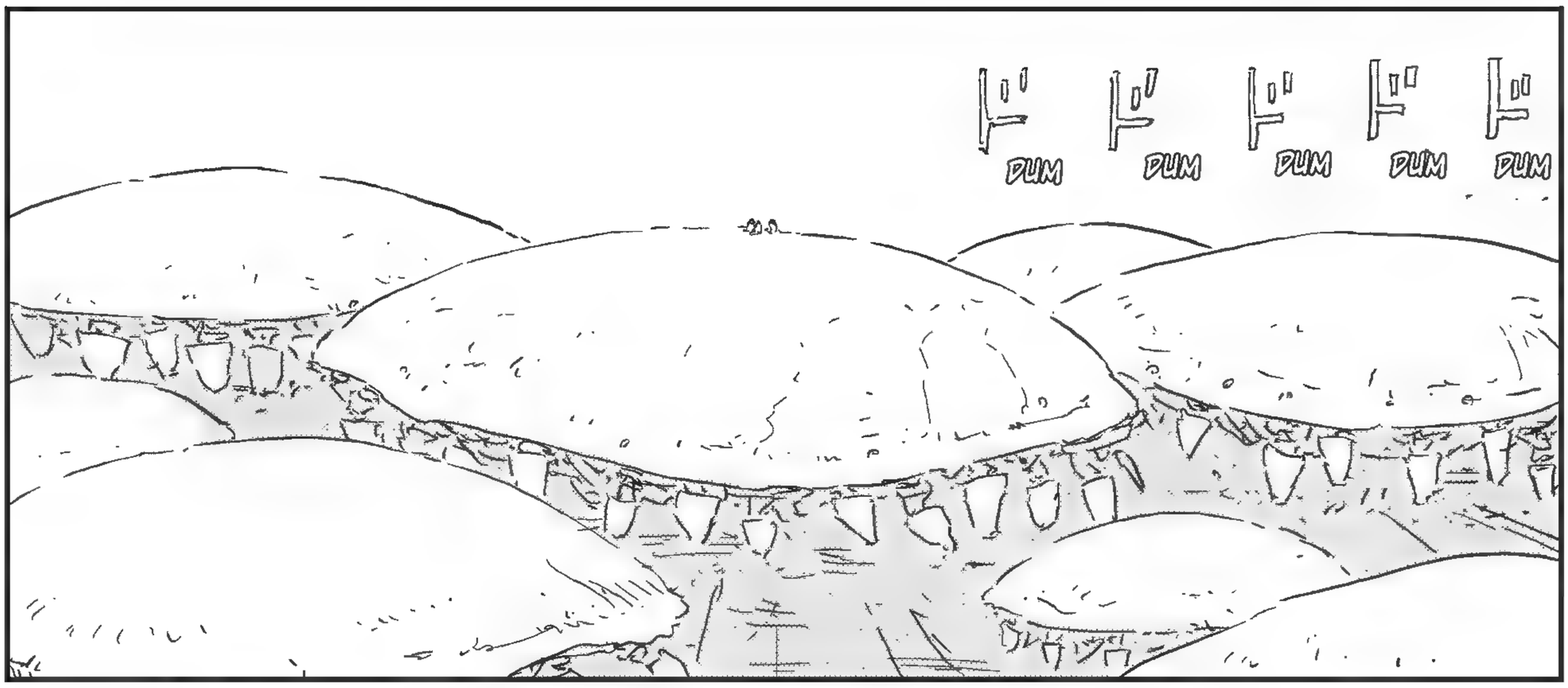
WHAT'S MORE, CONFLICTS ARE BREAKING OUT FREQUENTLY, SO THE MILITARY REALLY HAS ITS HANDS FULL.
MOST OF THE USEFUL REINCARNATEDS HAVE BEEN STATIONED IN SURROUNDING NATIONS.

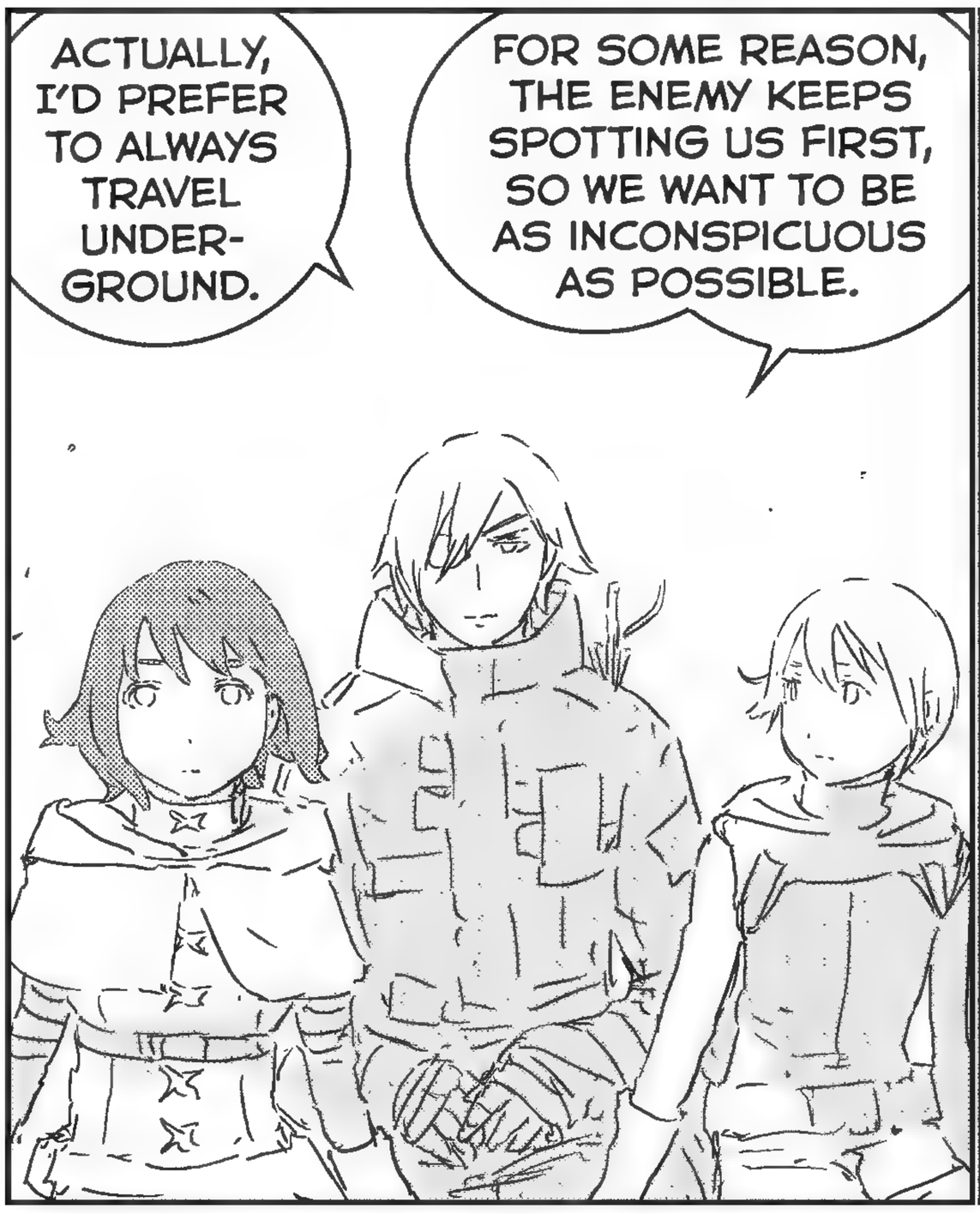

BUT FORGET THE PEOPLE OF OTHER NATIONS, THE EMPEROR IS ABANDONING THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE ITSELF.
I'VE SULLIED MY HANDS BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN THE EMPEROR AND PEACE FOR THE SURFACE,
BECAUSE I BELIEVED THEY WERE NECESSARY SACRIFICES.


JUST WHAT'S DOWN THERE IN THE CORE?
THAT HE WOULD GO SO FAR?
ARE THE AMBS SOMETHING SO NECES-SARY

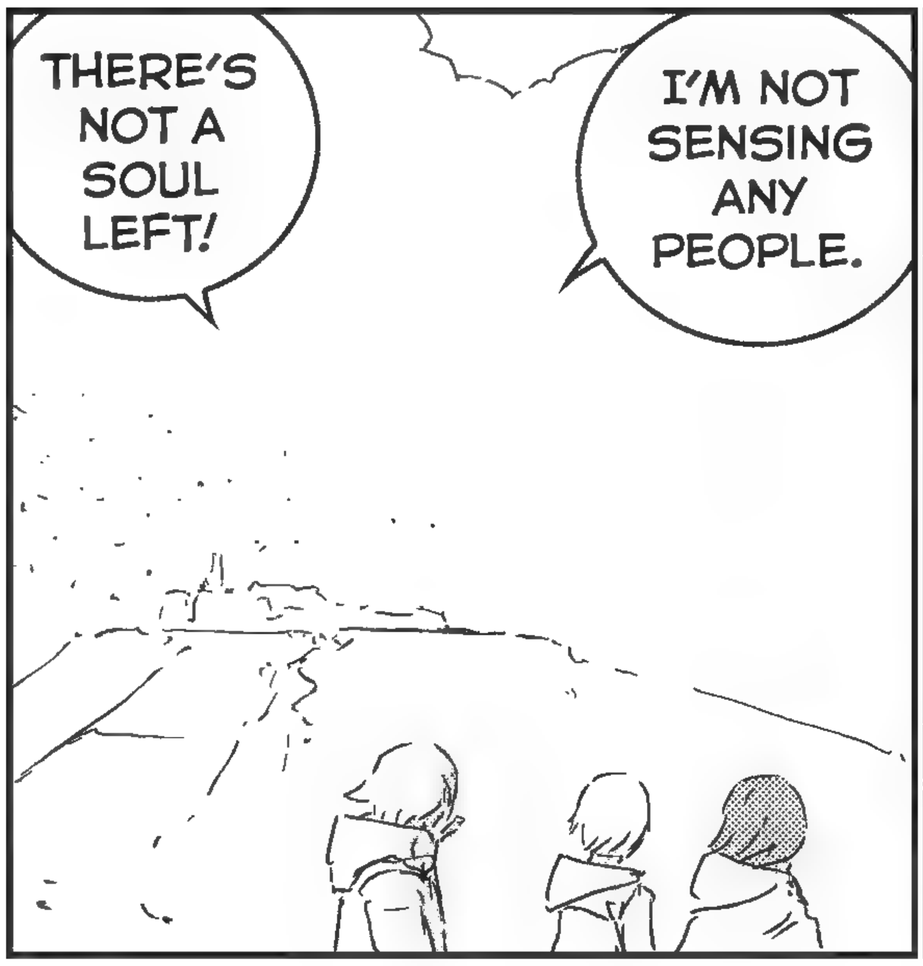
JATE...

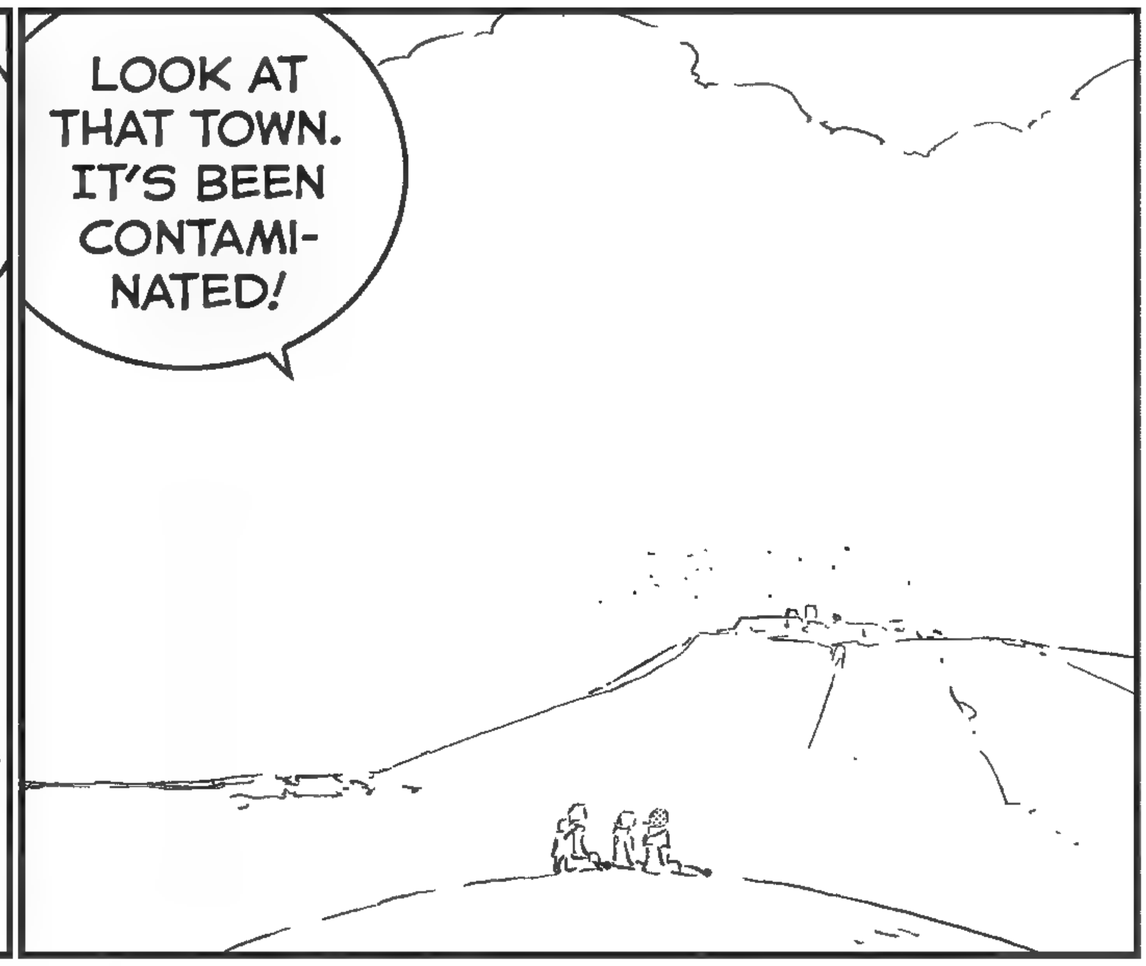



DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM
DUM

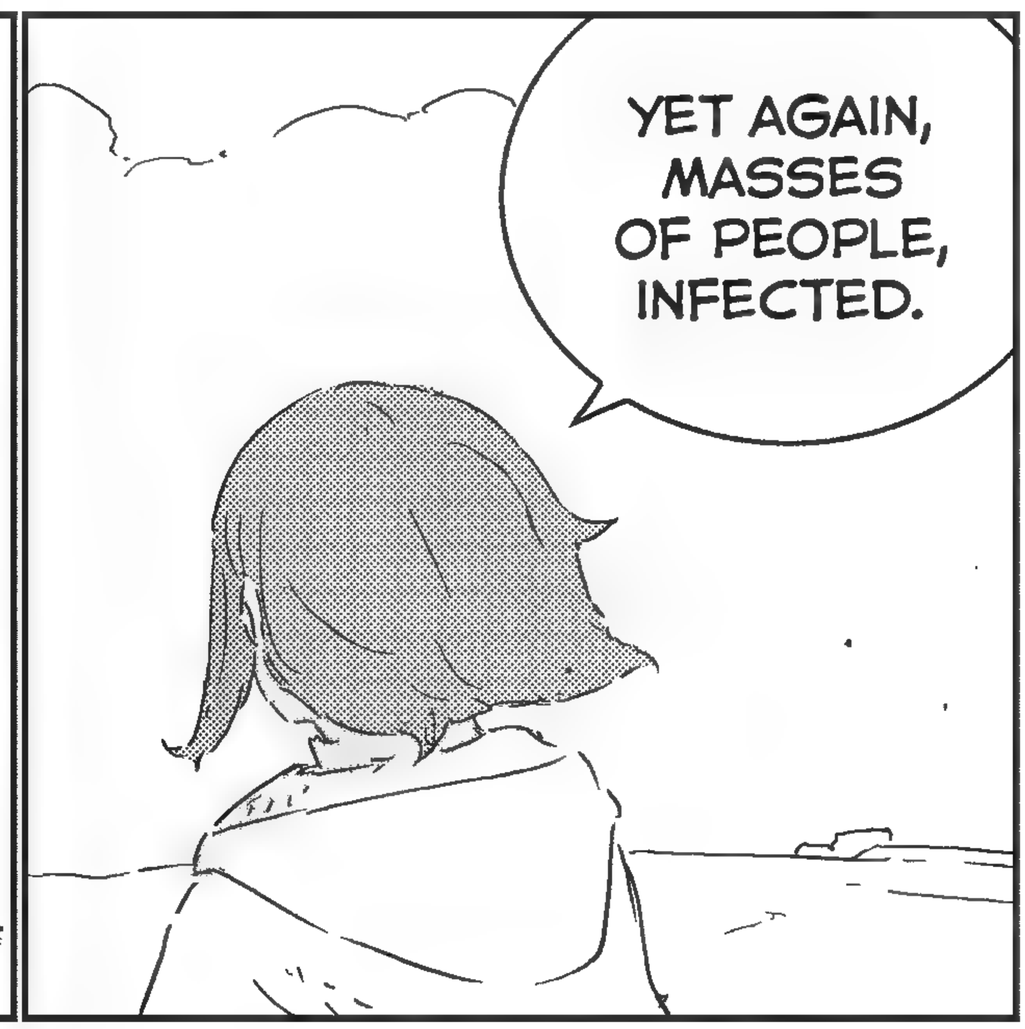

ACTUALLY, I'D PREFER TO ALWAYS TRAVEL UNDER-GROUND.
FOR SOME REASON, THE ENEMY KEEPS SPOTTING US FIRST, SO WE WANT TO BE AS INCONSPICUOUS AS POSSIBLE.

ALTHOUGH I GUESS IT'S BETTER THAN WALKING.
BUT, LIKE, IS THERE REALLY NO MORE EFFICIENT WAY WE COULD TRAVEL?

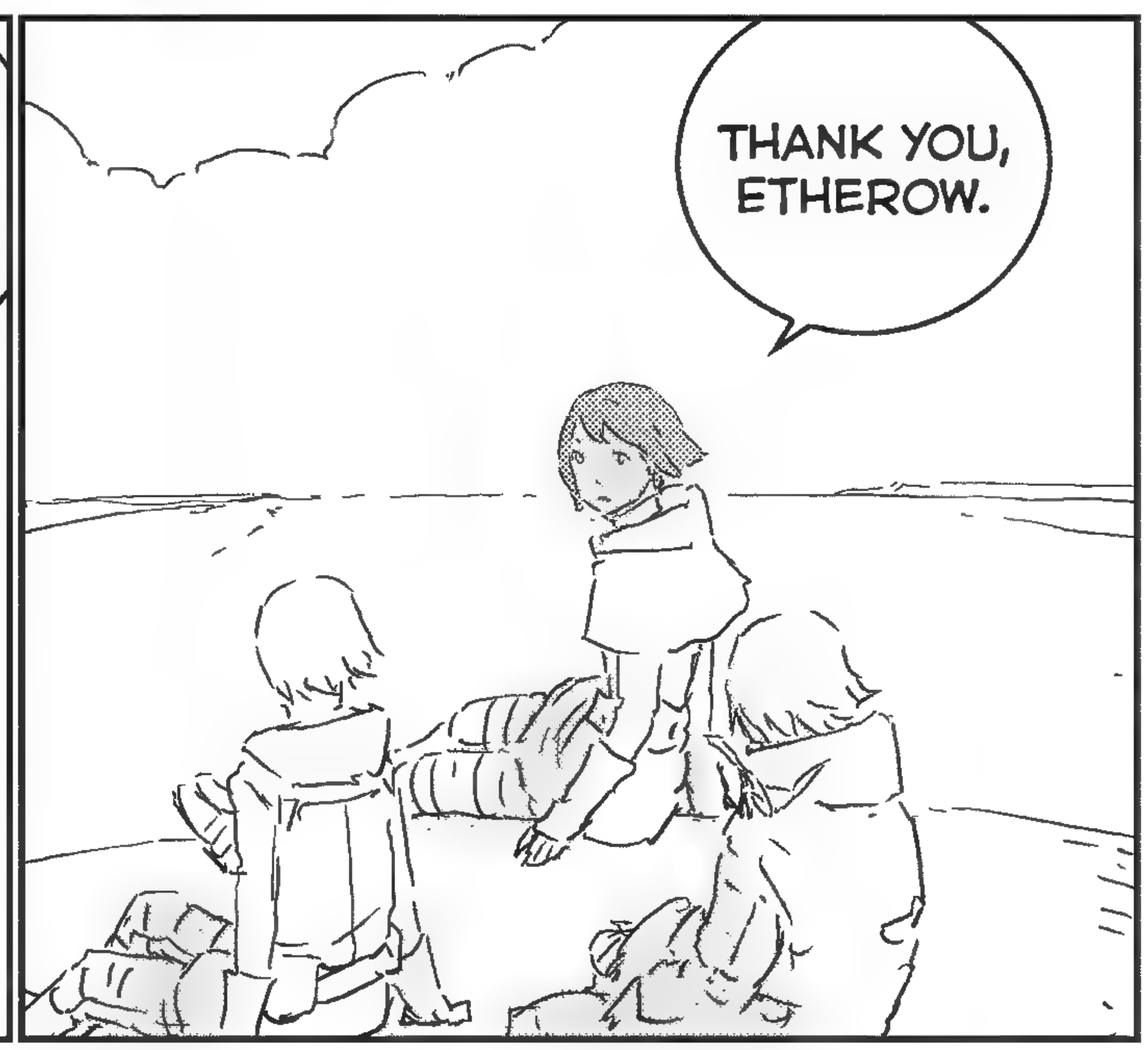

THERE'S NOT A SOUL LEFT!
I'M NOT SENSING ANY PEOPLE.

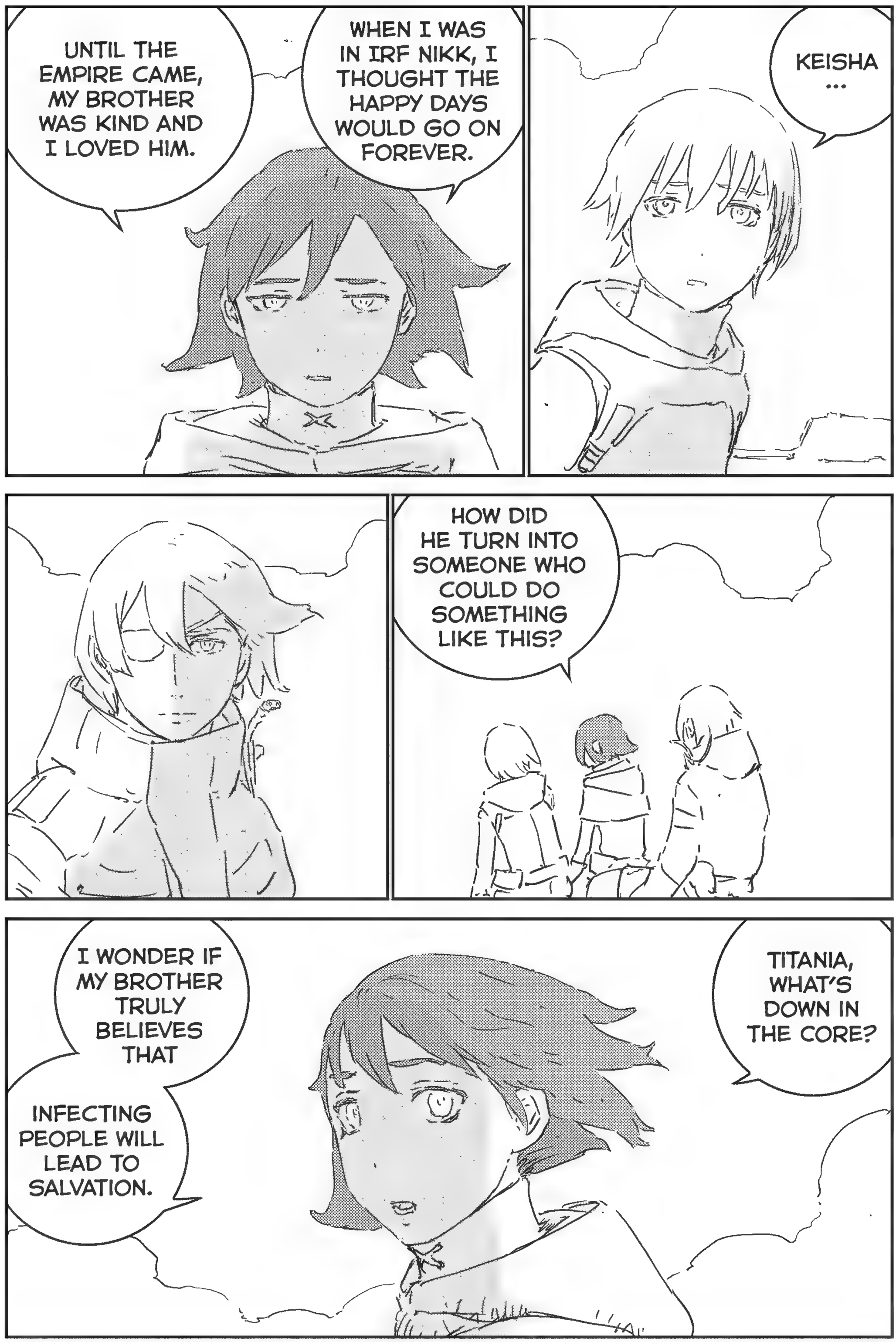

LOOK AT THAT TOWN. IT'S BEEN CONTAMI-NATED!

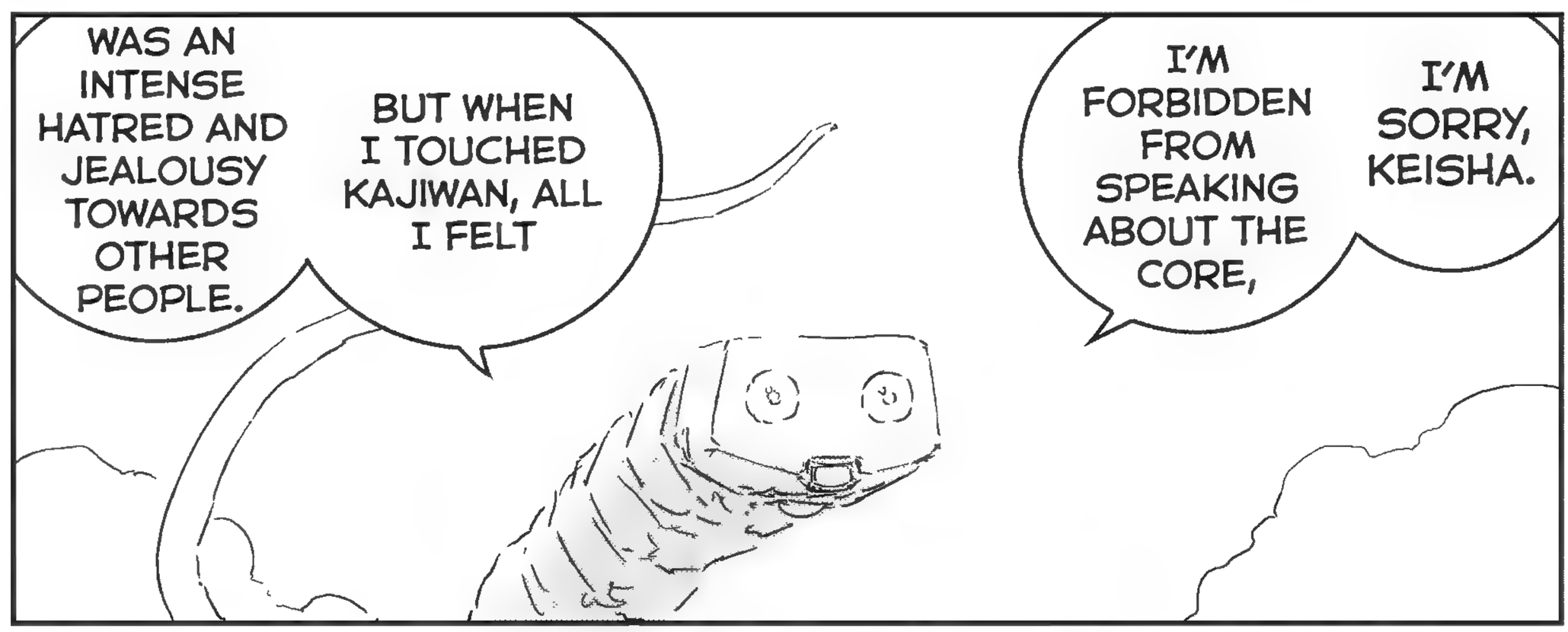
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

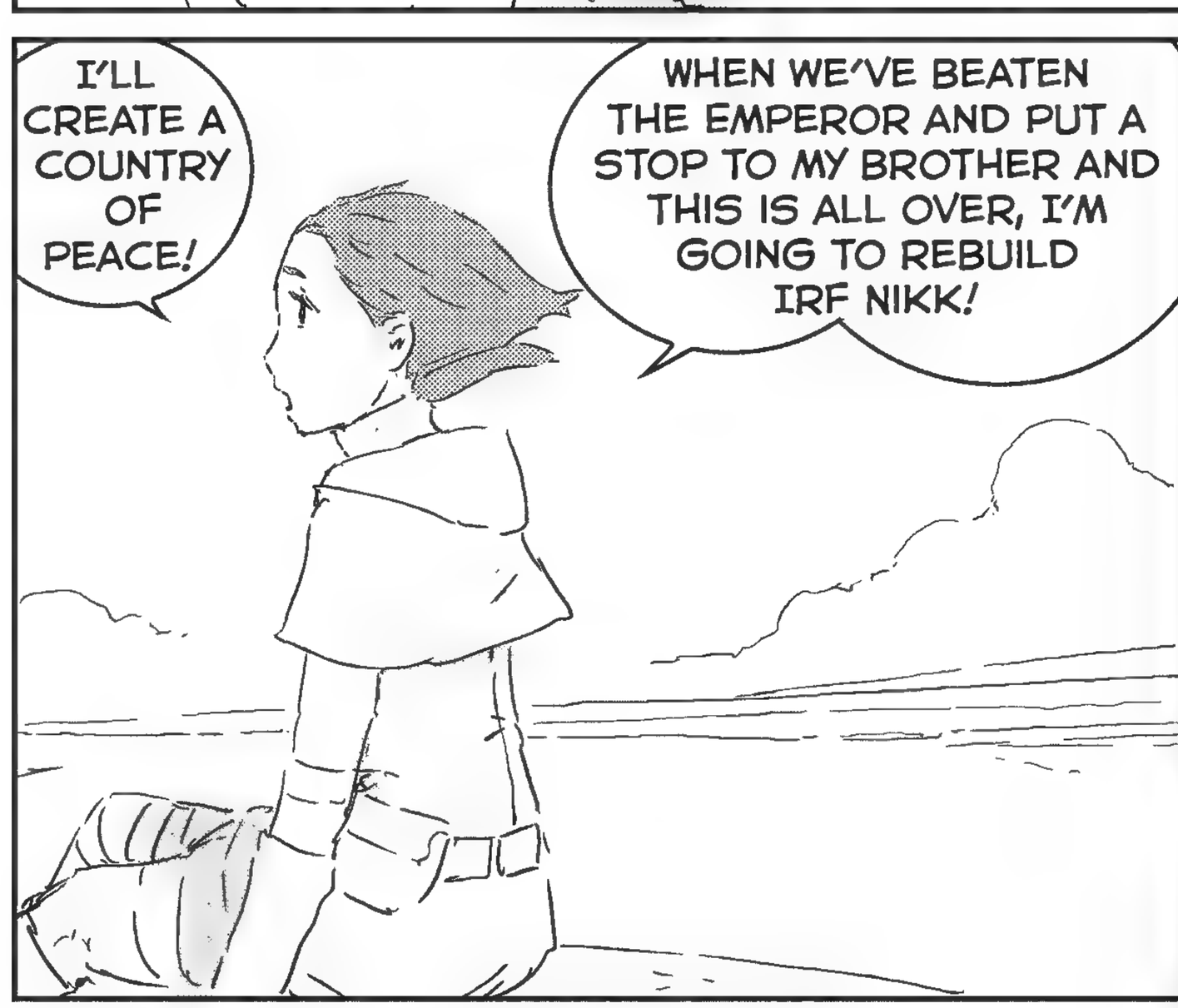

YET AGAIN, MASSES OF PEOPLE, INFECTED.

I'M BEGINNING TO GET A BIT WORN OUT.
BUT I WONDER HOW LONG WE'LL KEEP ON DOING THIS.

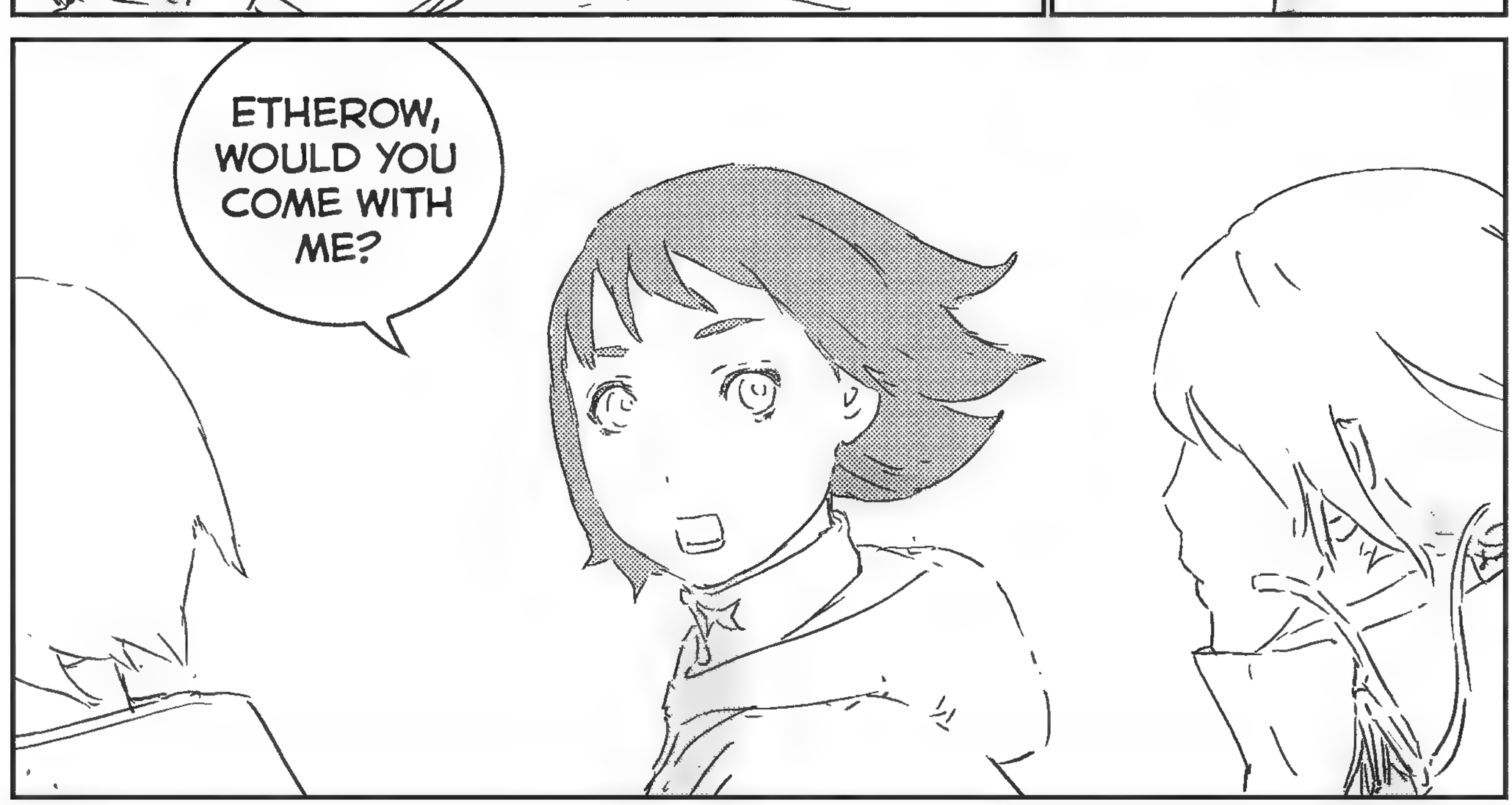

THANK YOU, ETHEROW.


UNTIL THE EMPIRE CAME, MY BROTHER WAS KIND AND I LOVED HIM.
WHEN I WAS IN IRF NIKK, I THOUGHT THE HAPPY DAYS WOULD GO ON FOREVER.
KEISHA ...
HOW DID HE TURN INTO SOMEONE WHO COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
I WONDER IF MY BROTHER TRULY BELIEVES THAT INFECTING PEOPLE WILL LEAD TO SALVATION.
TITANIA, WHAT'S DOWN IN THE CORE?


WAS AN INTENSE HATRED AND JEALOUSY TOWARDS OTHER PEOPLE.
BUT WHEN I TOUCHED KAJIWAN, ALL I FELT
I'M FORBIDDEN FROM SPEAKING ABOUT THE CORE,
I'M SORRY, KEISHA.

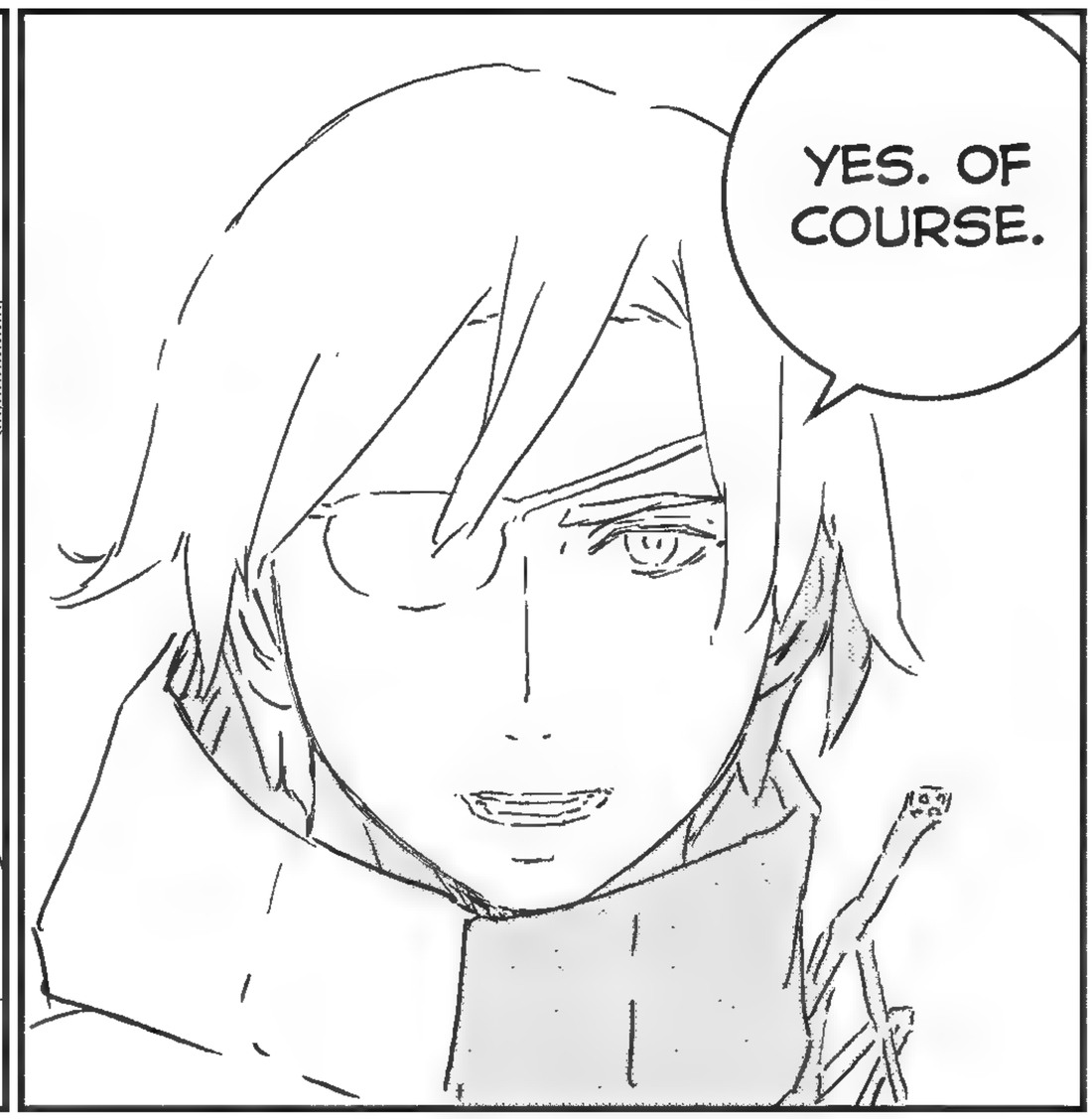

I'LL CREATE A COUNTRY OF PEACE!
WHEN WE'VE BEATEN THE EMPEROR AND PUT A STOP TO MY BROTHER AND THIS IS ALL OVER, I'M GOING TO REBUILD IRF NIKK!

I SEE...


ETHEROW, WOULD YOU COME WITH ME?

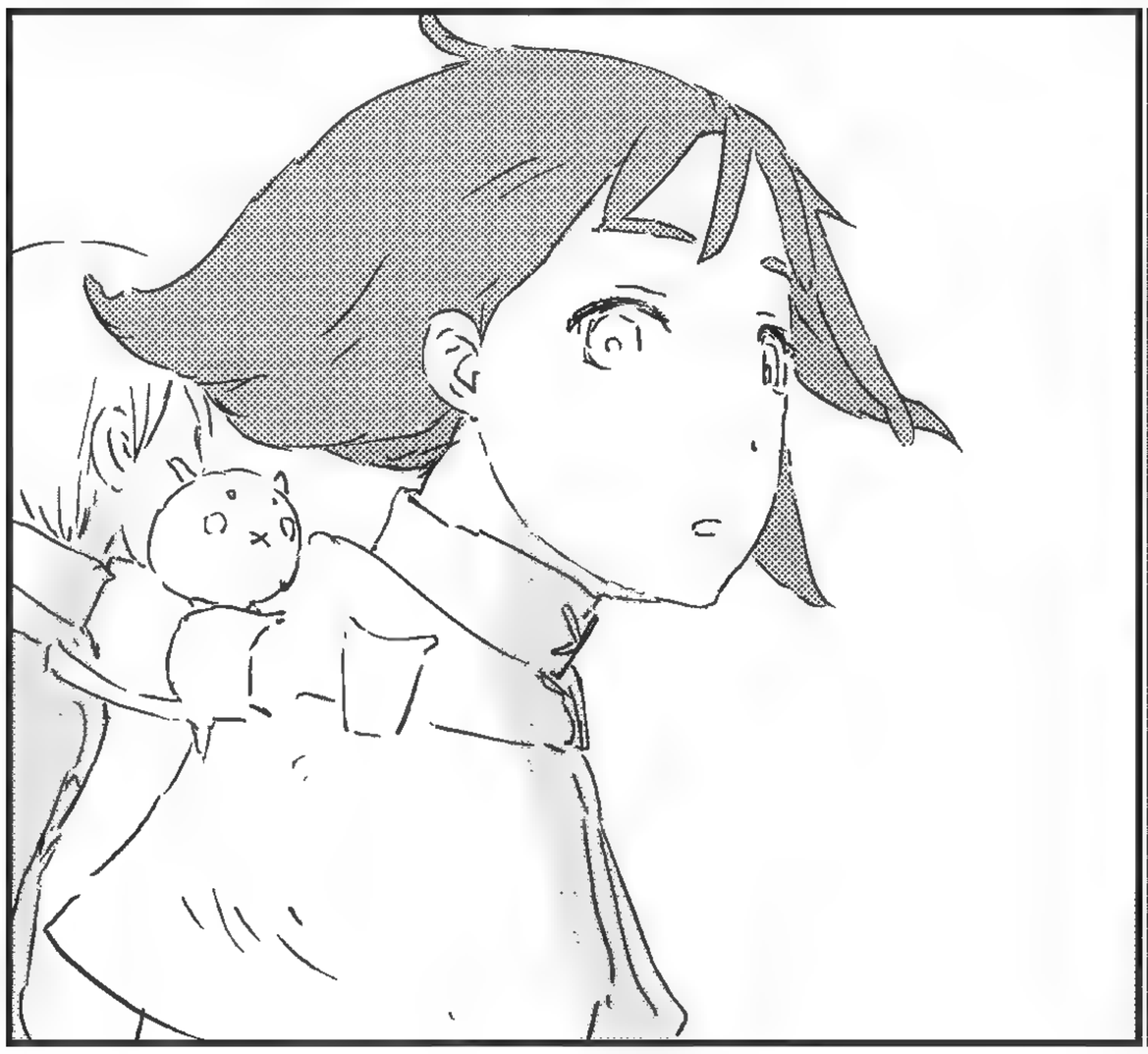
WOULD YOU HELP ME, ETHEROW?

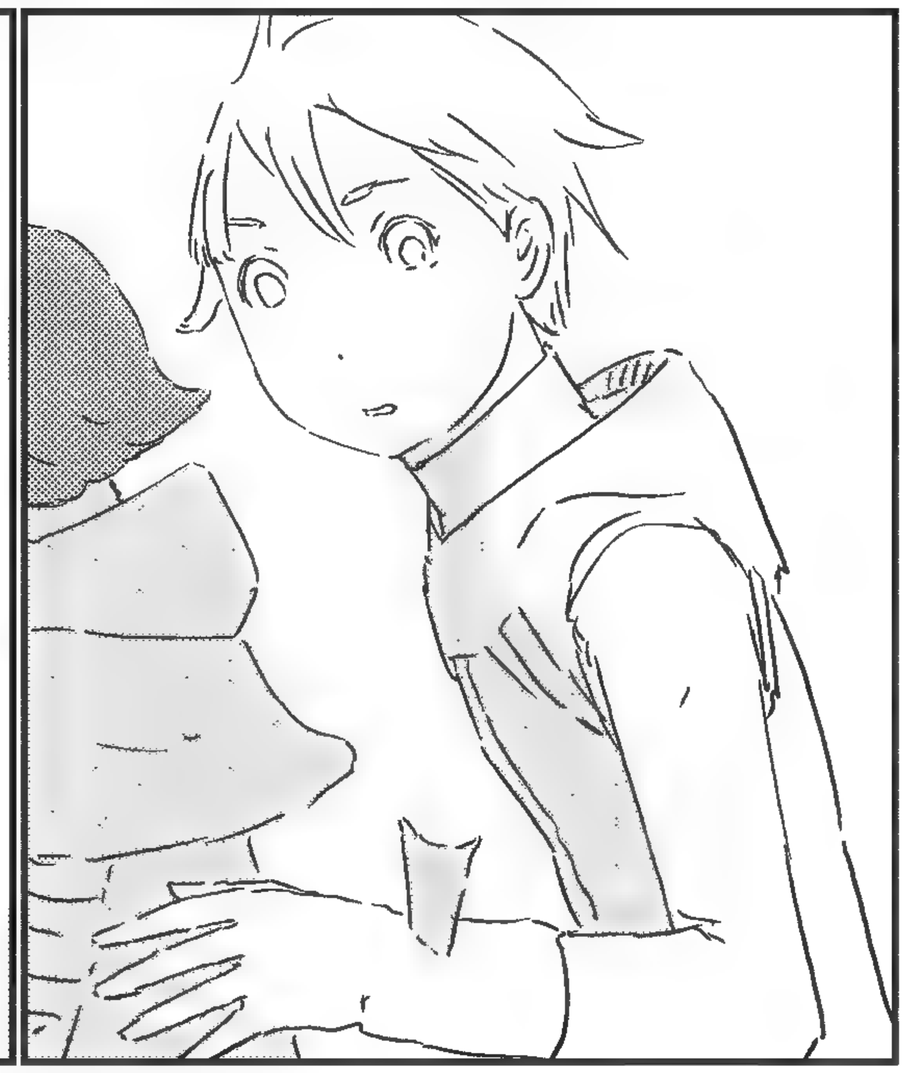
I WILL HELP YOU.

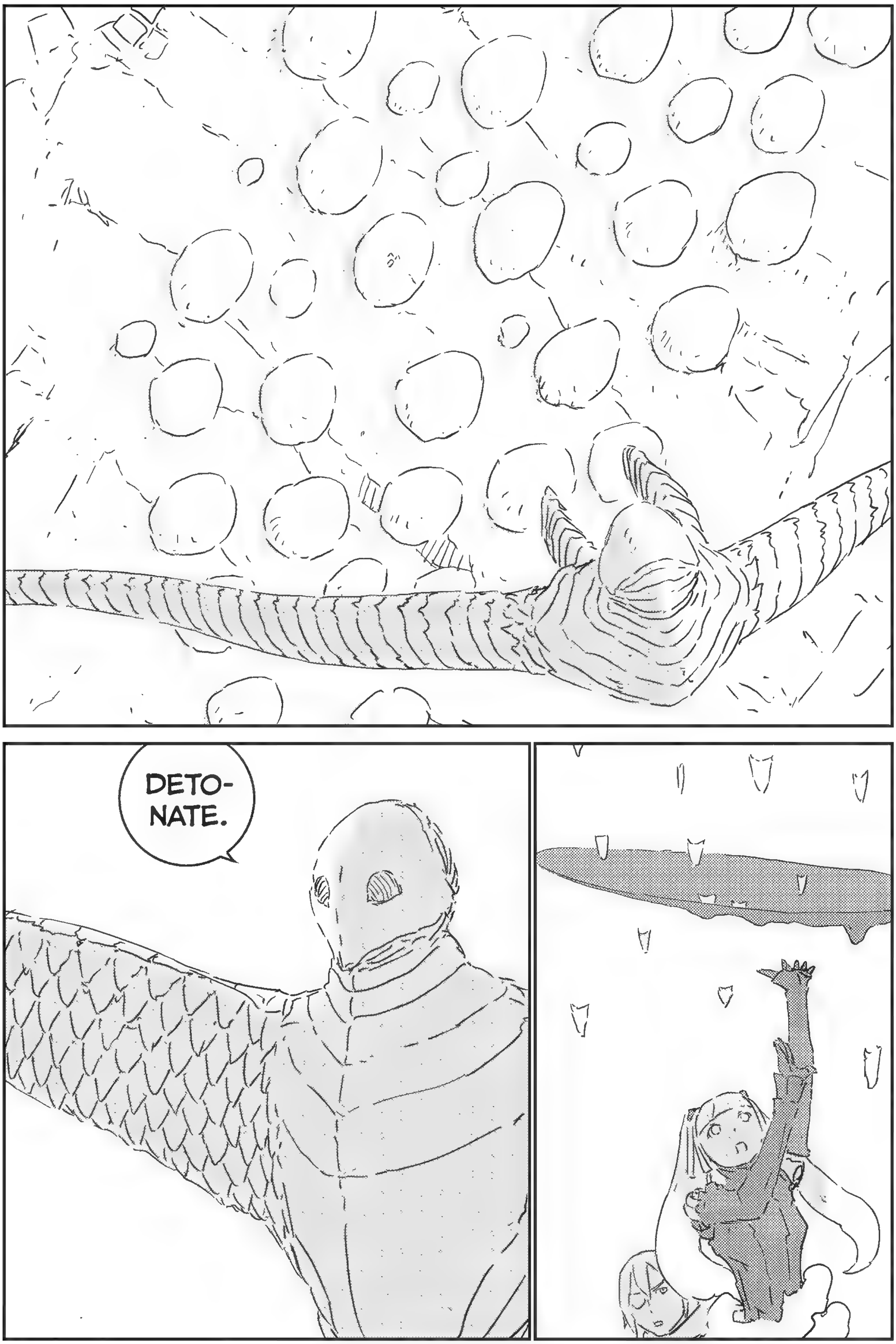

YES. OF COURSE.

HUH ?!!

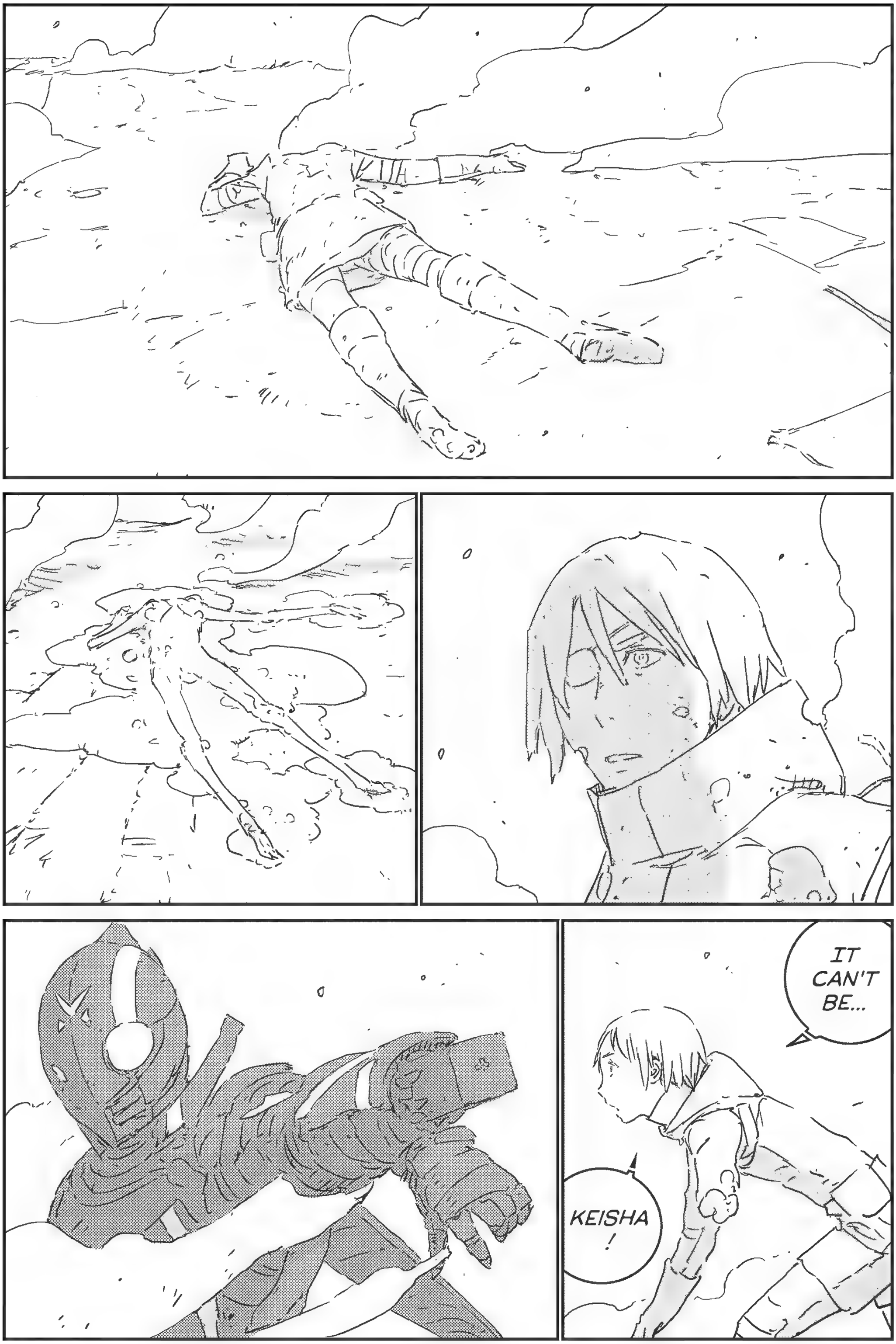
IN IRF NIKK, THAT EXCHANGE SERVES AS A PROMISE OF BETROTHAL.
ETHEROW, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE AGREED TO?

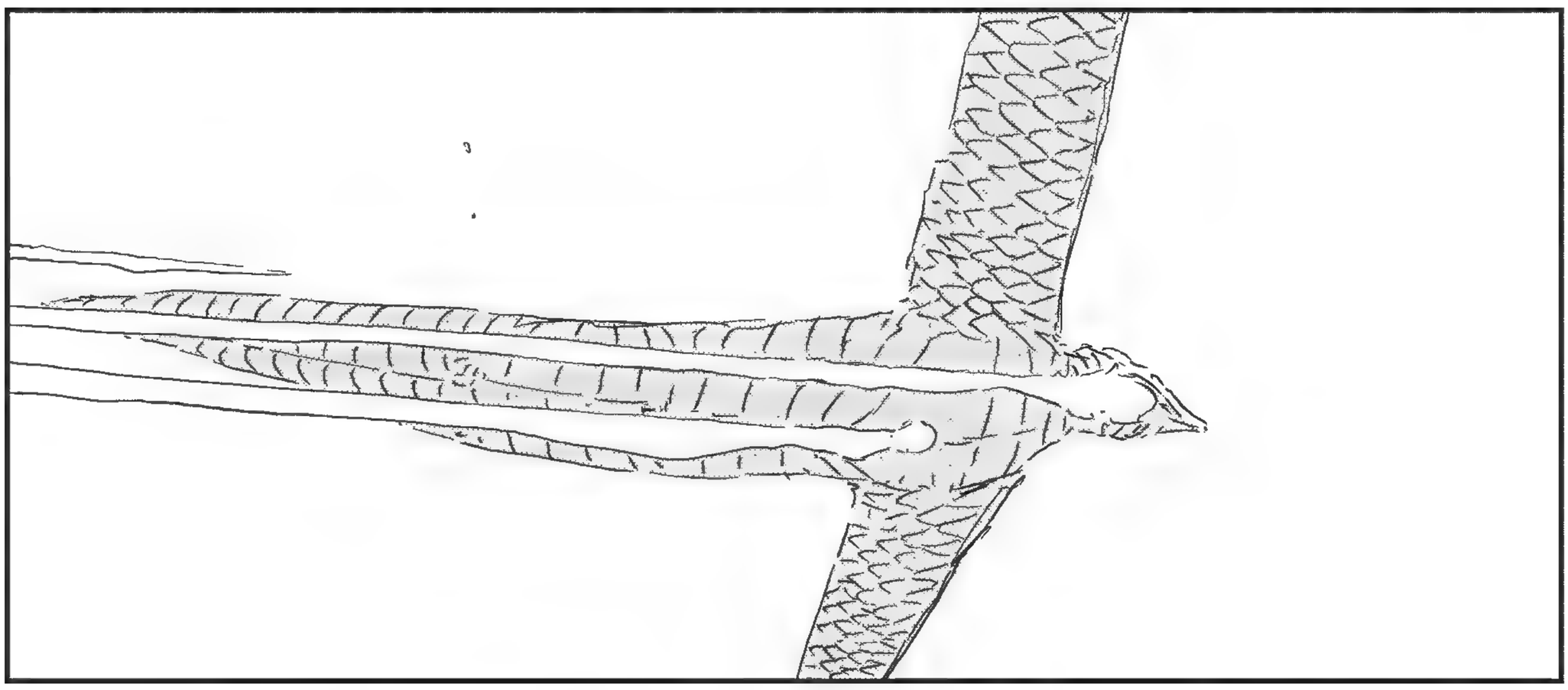


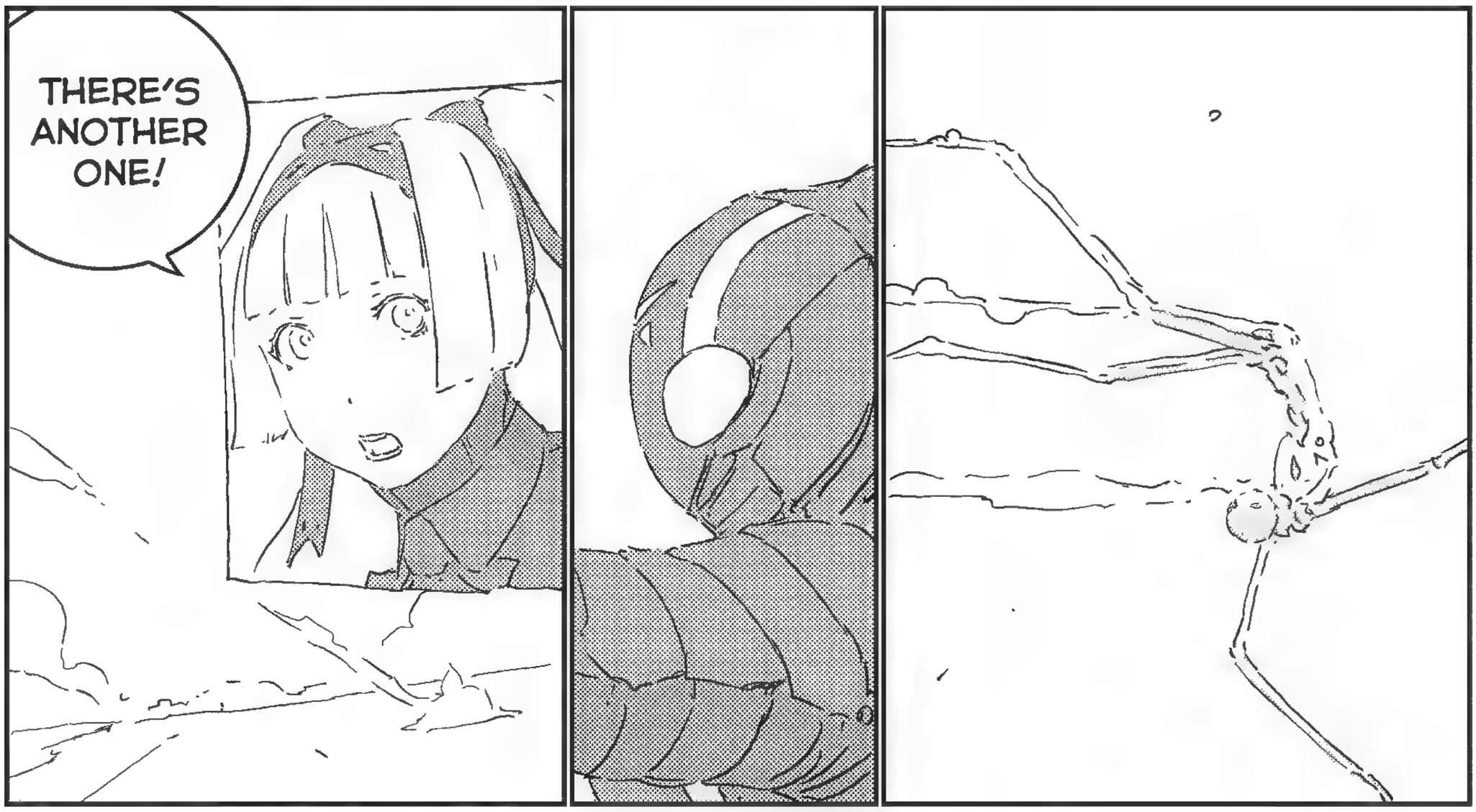



DETO-
NATE.

GABOO
OOM
BOOM BOOM BOOM
!!


IT CAN'T BE...
KEISHA !




THERE'S ANOTHER ONE!

AND LUCKY.

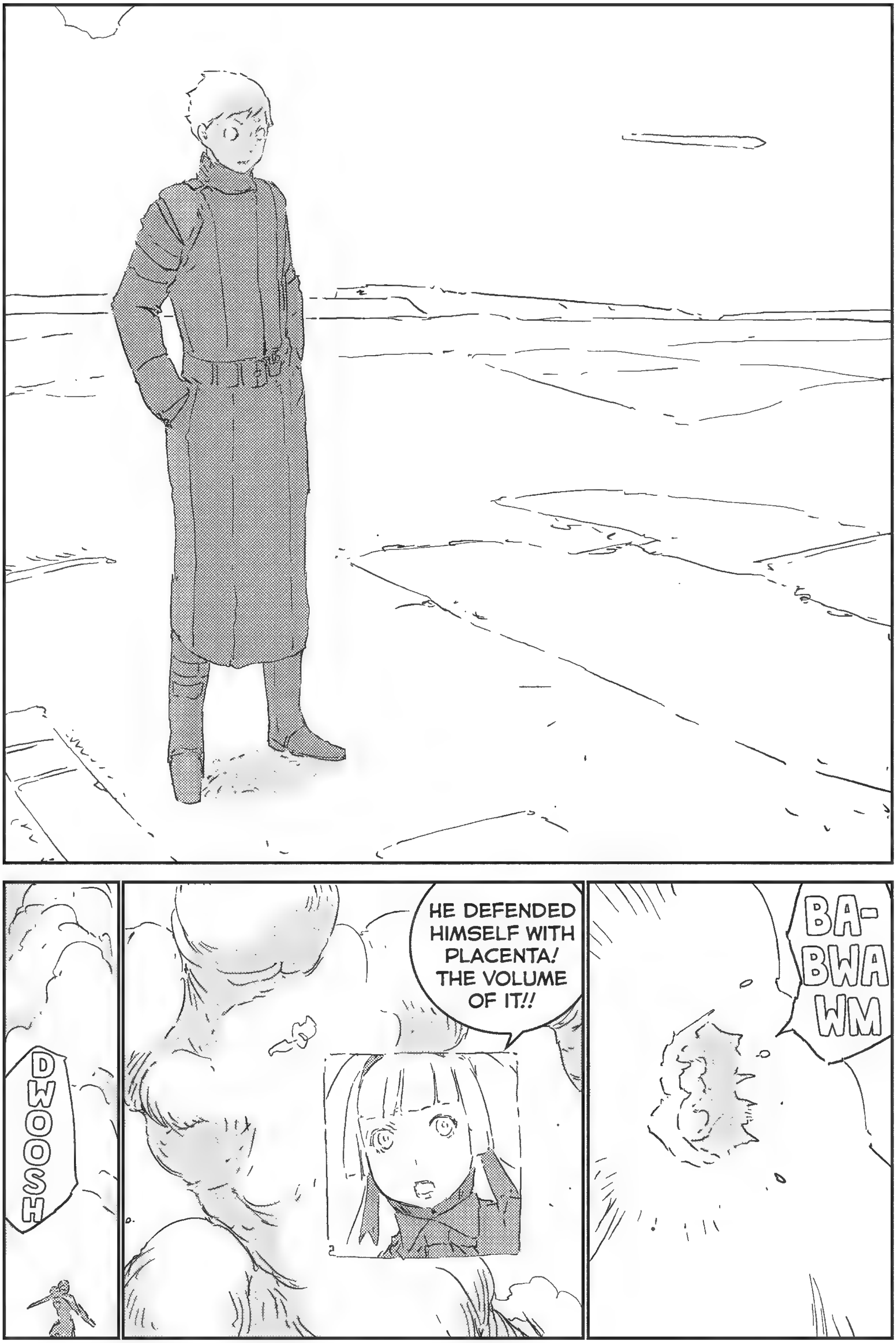
AH, I SEE. AS RUMORED, YOU'RE FAST AND PRECISE

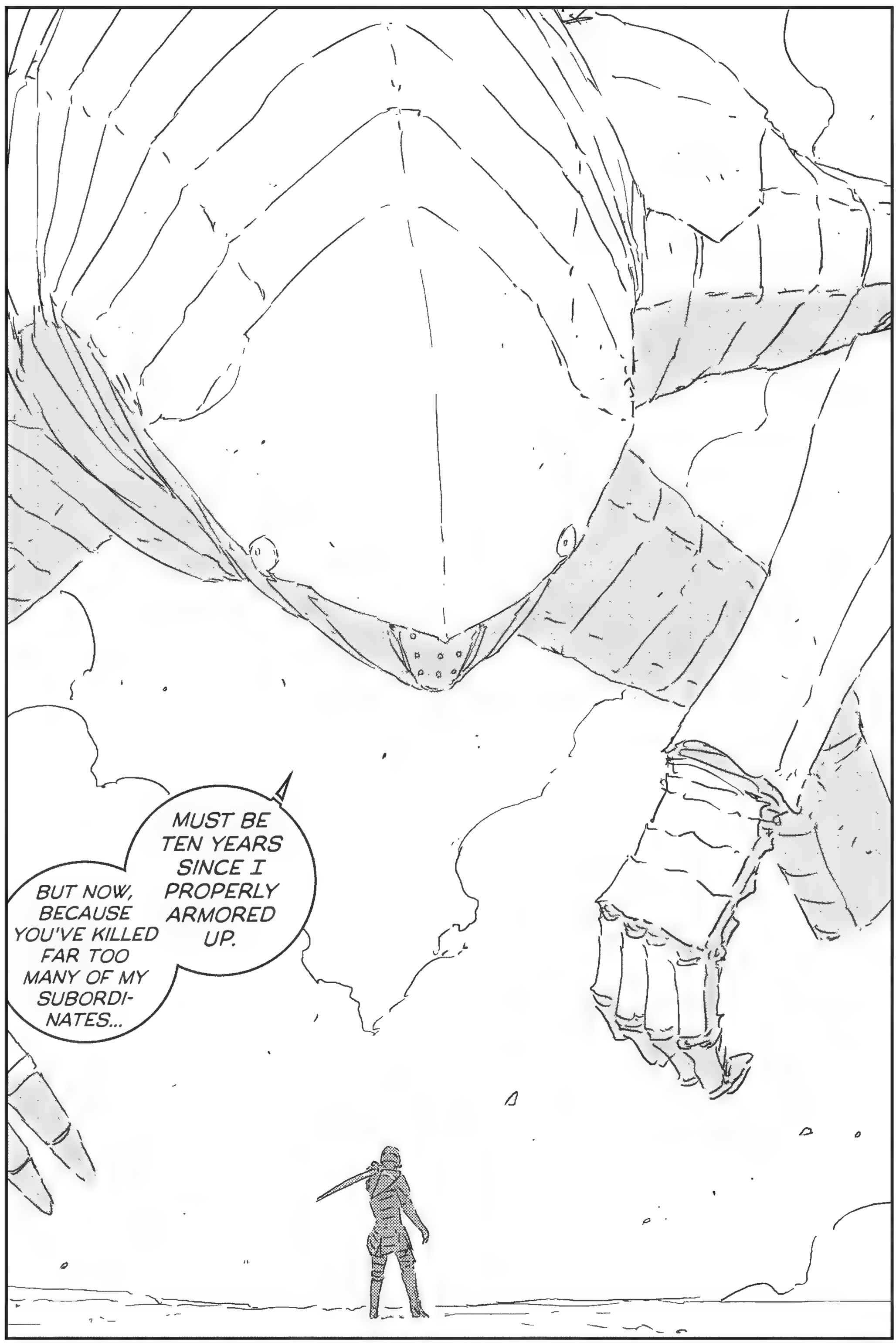
THOOM-

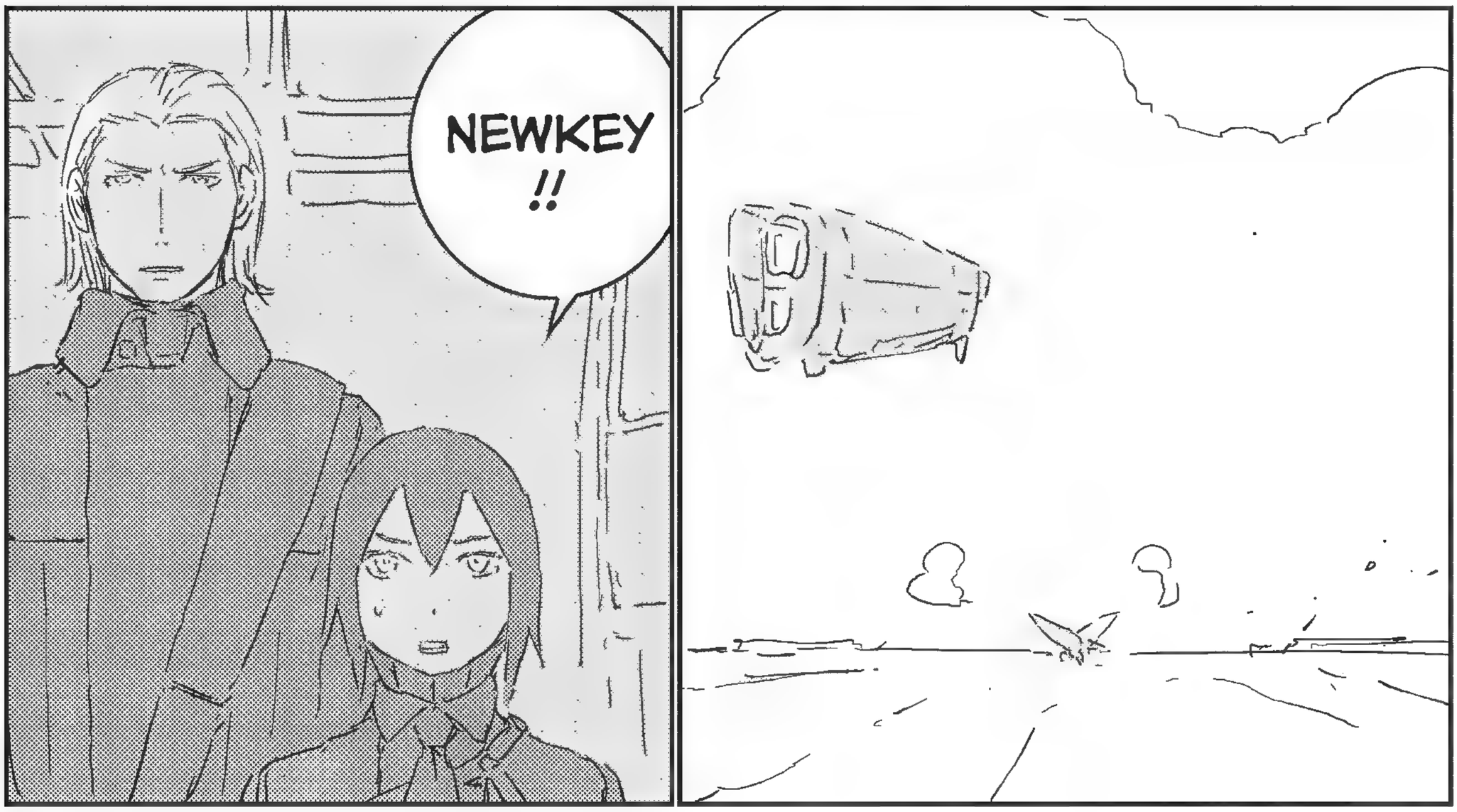
THOOM

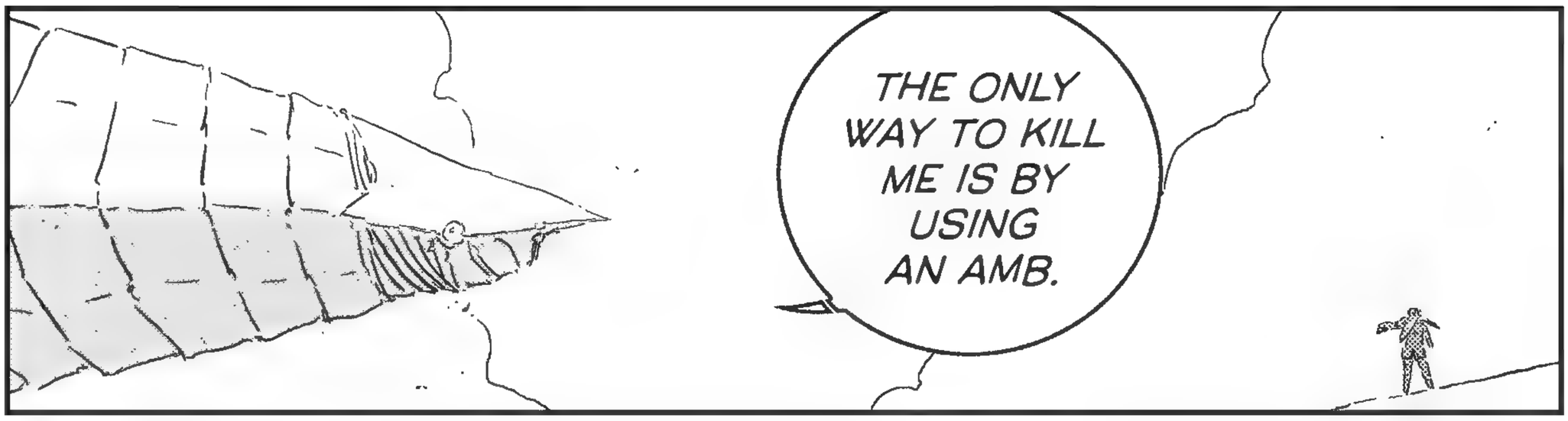
ETHEROW OF THE WHITE DIAMOND BEAM.

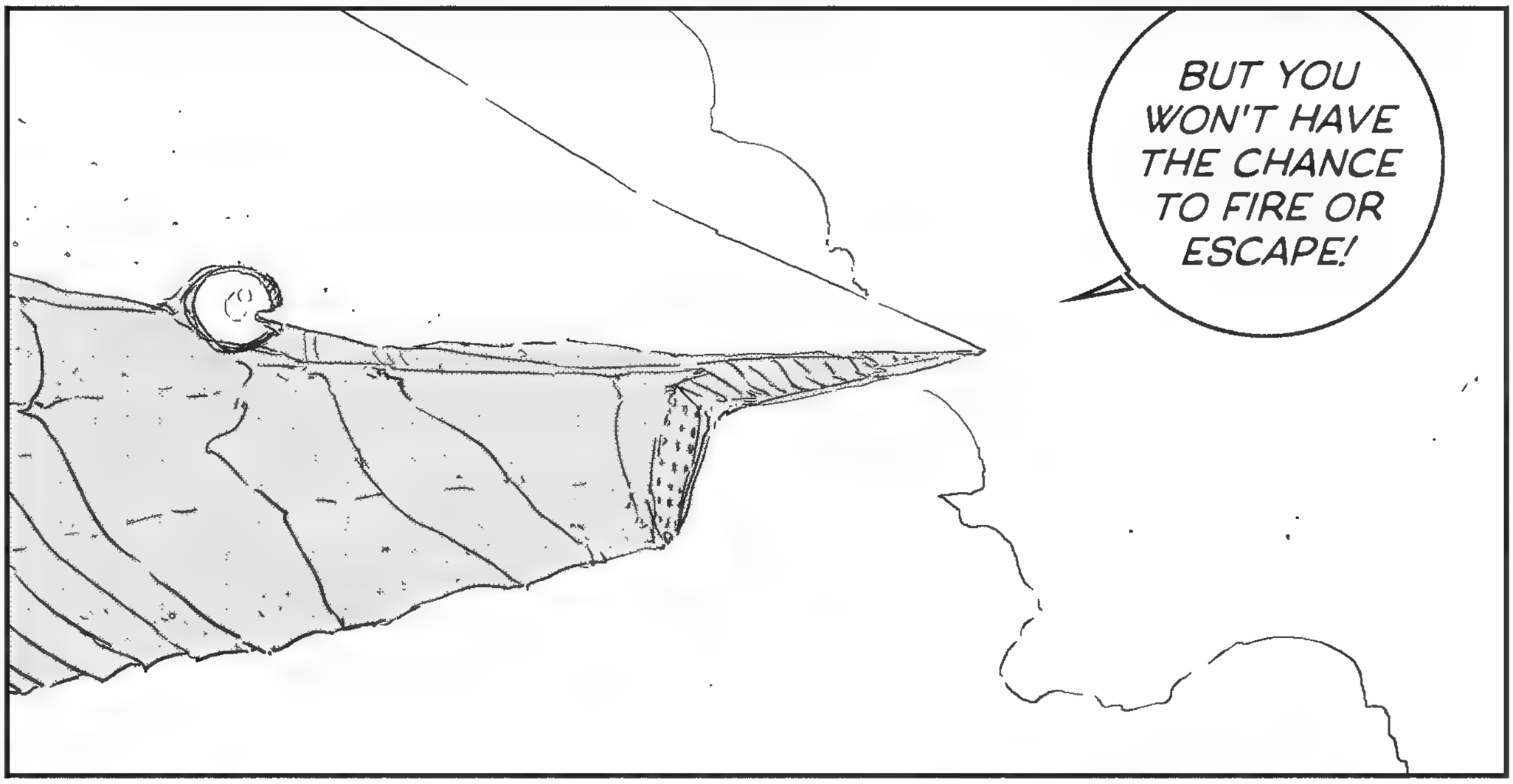
THIS WHOLE TIME, YOU'VE JUST HAD GOOD LUCK, THAT'S ALL...

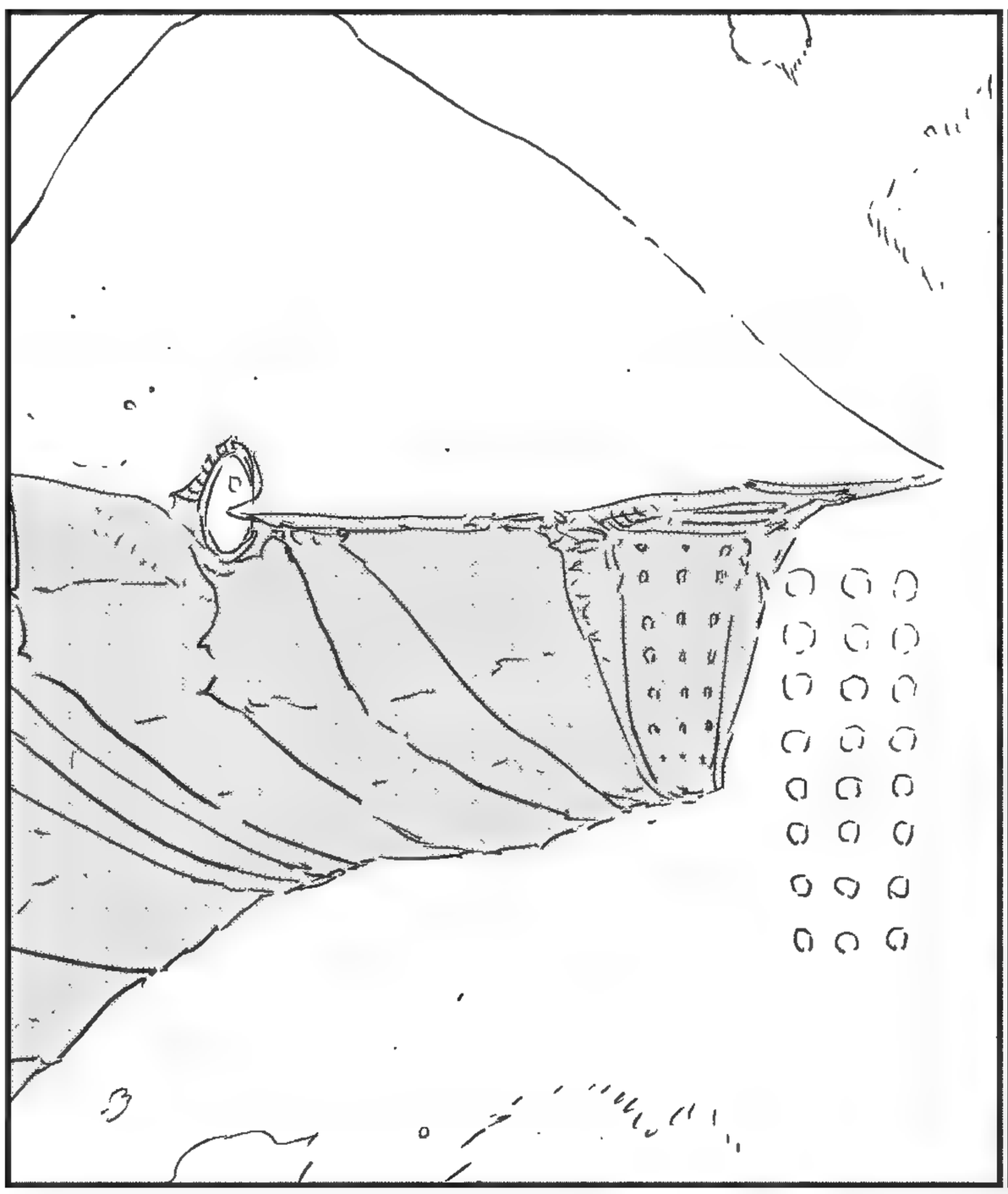

DWOOSH
HE DEFENDED HIMSELF WITH PLACENTA! THE VOLUME OF IT!!
BA-BWA WM

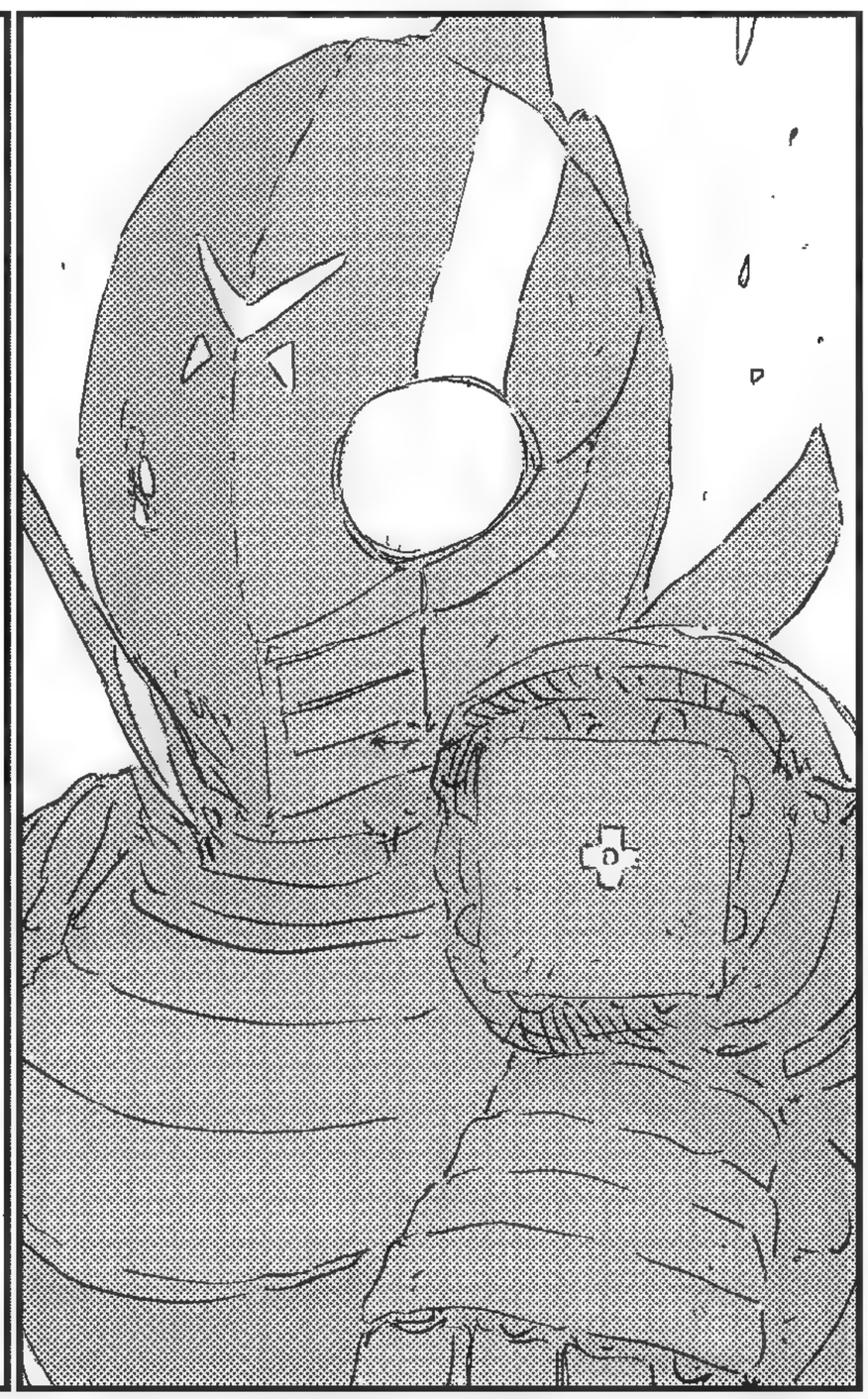

MUST BE TEN YEARS SINCE I PROPERLY ARMORED UP.
BUT NOW, BECAUSE YOU'VE KILLED FAR TOO MANY OF MY SUBORDI-NATES...

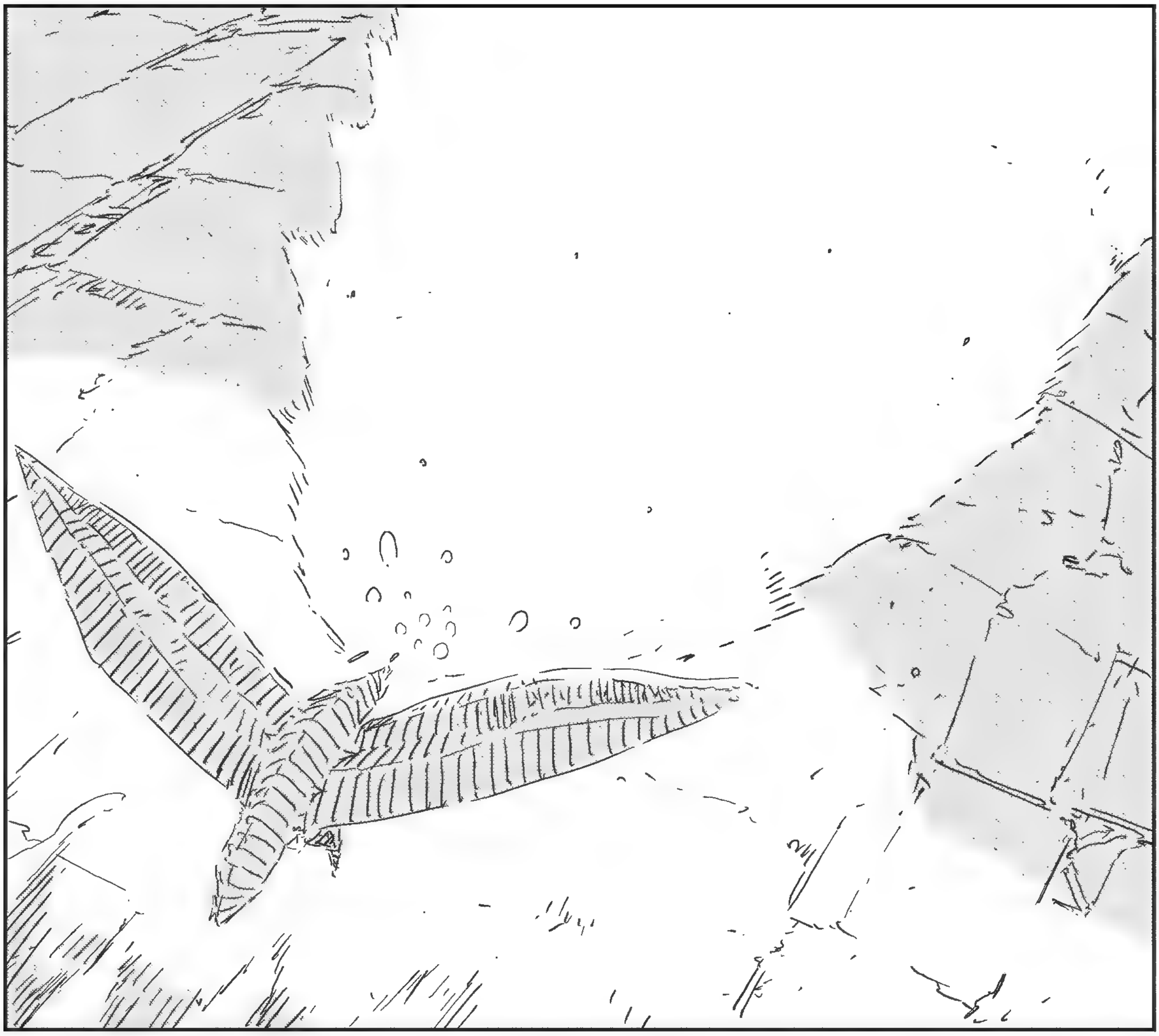

NEWKEY
!!

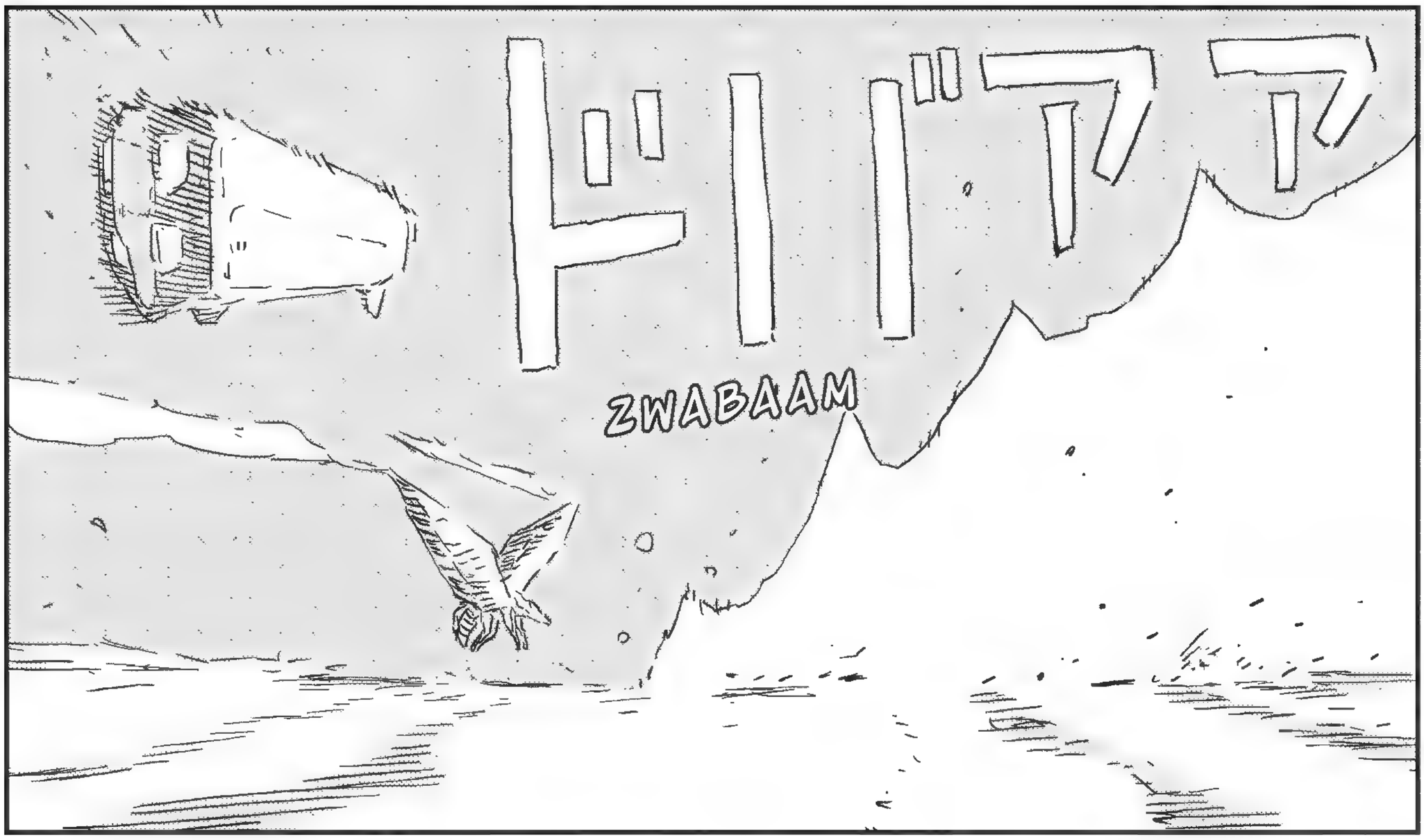

THE ONLY WAY TO KILL ME IS BY USING AN AMB.

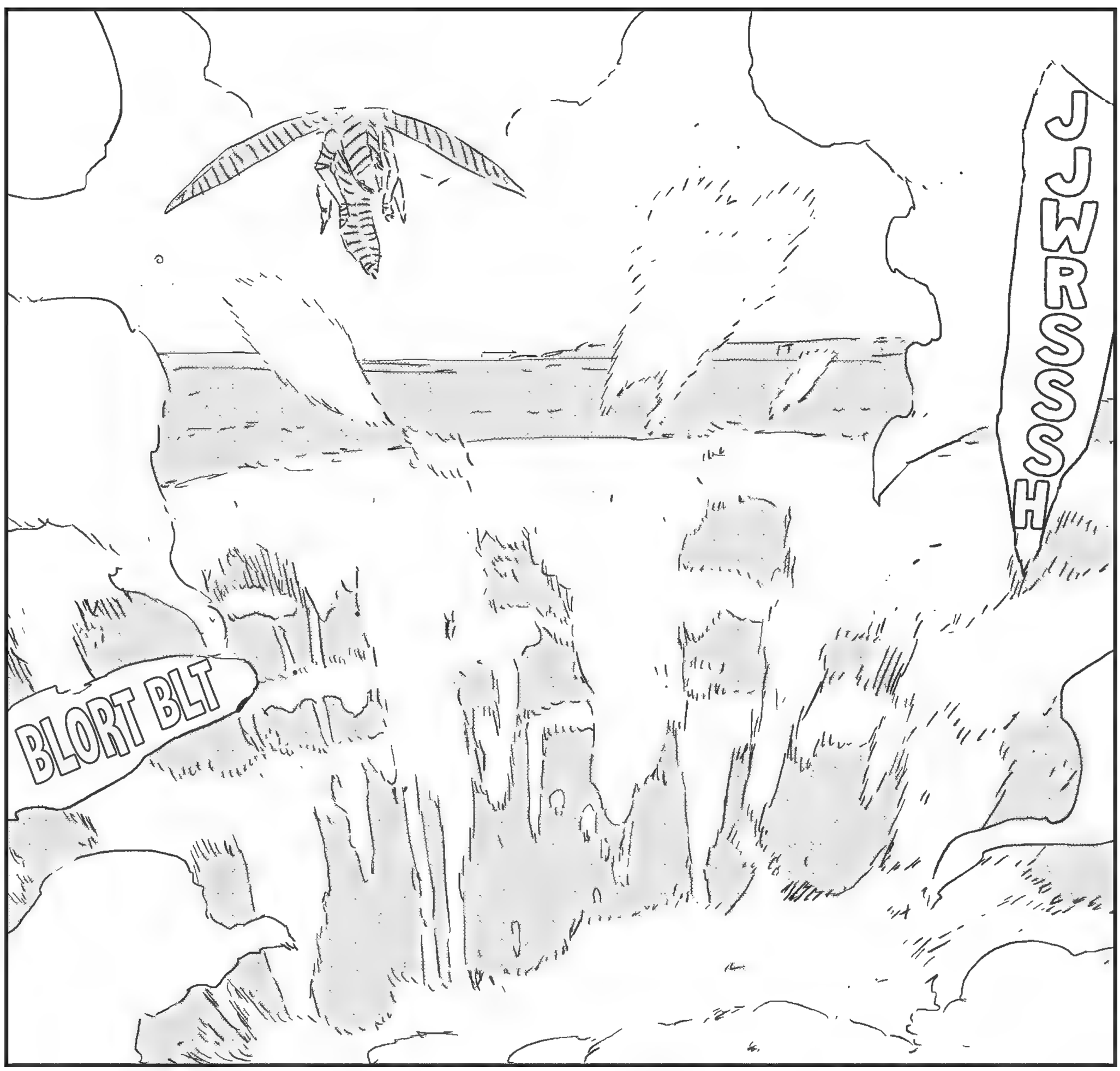

BUT YOU WON'T HAVE THE CHANCE TO FIRE OR ESCAPE!

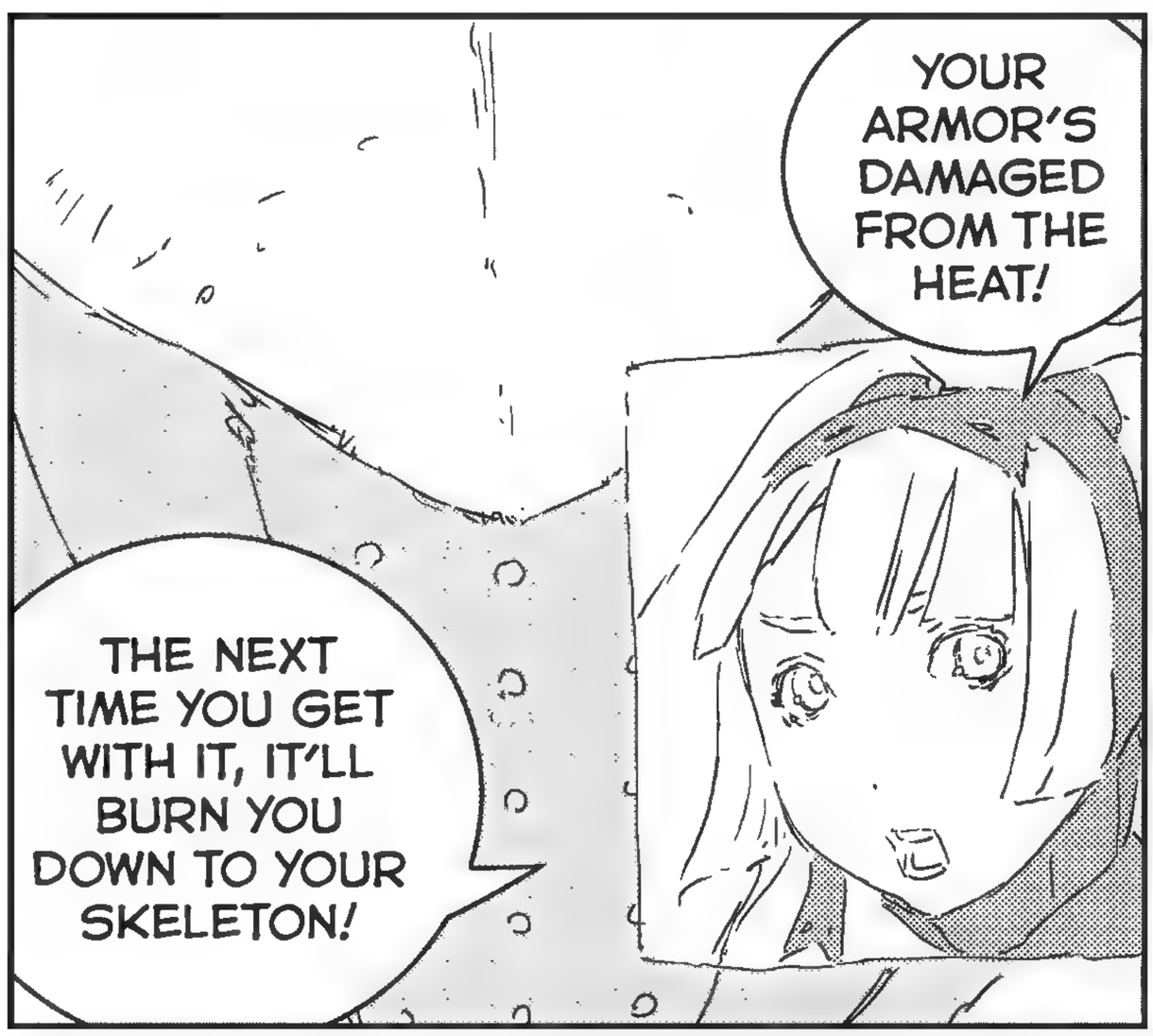


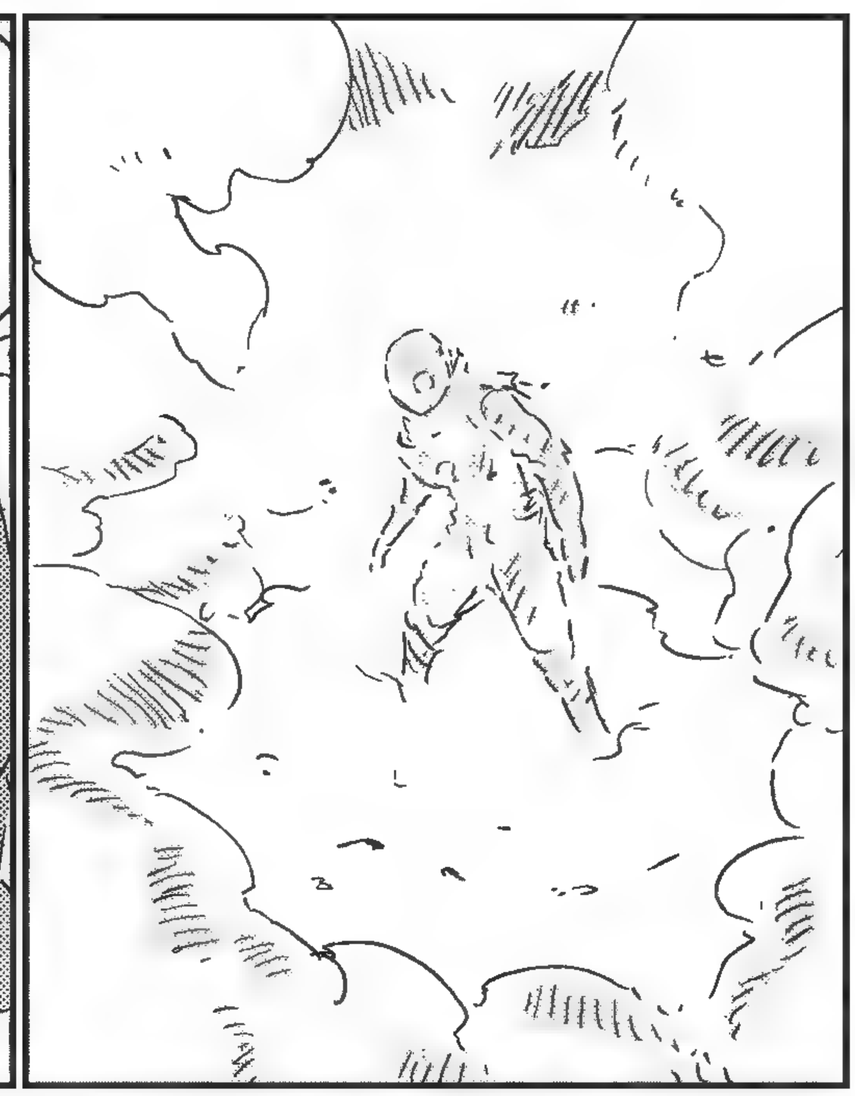


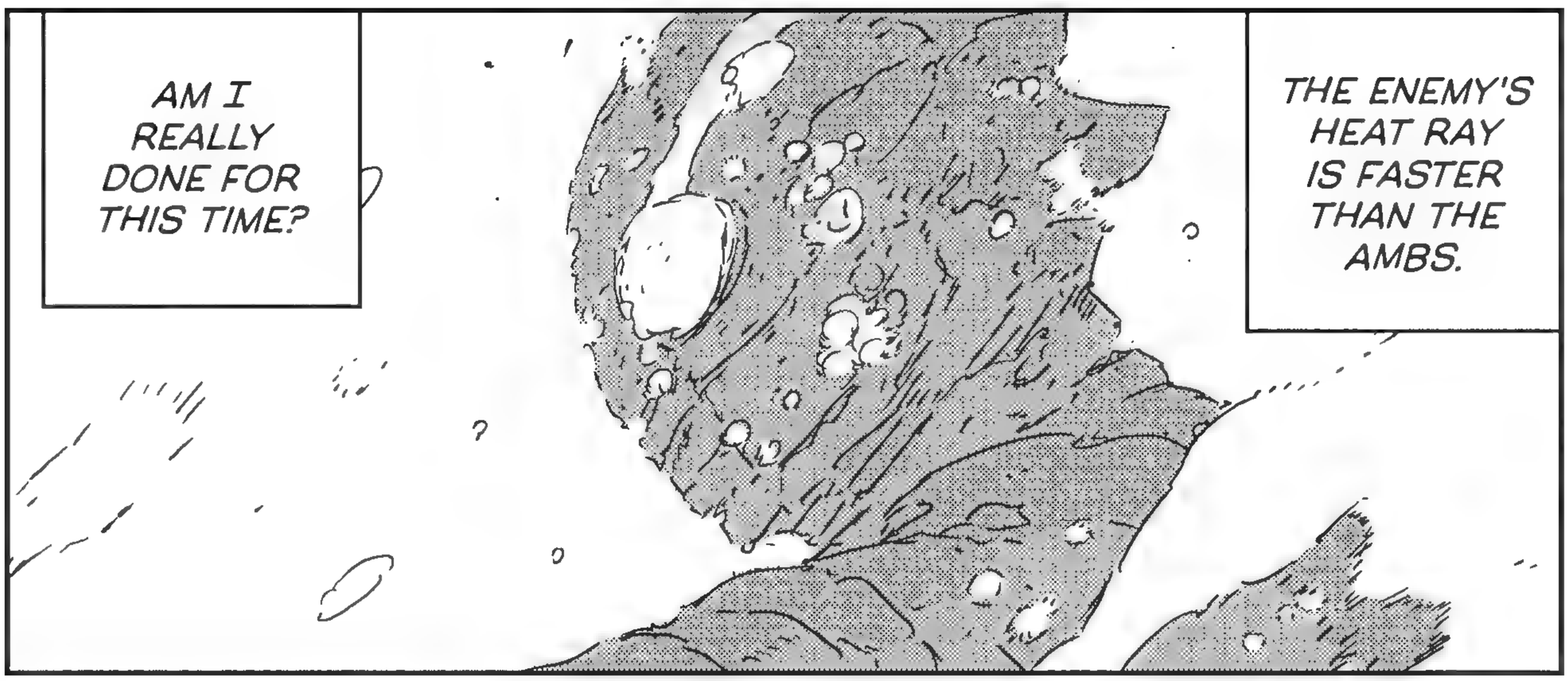


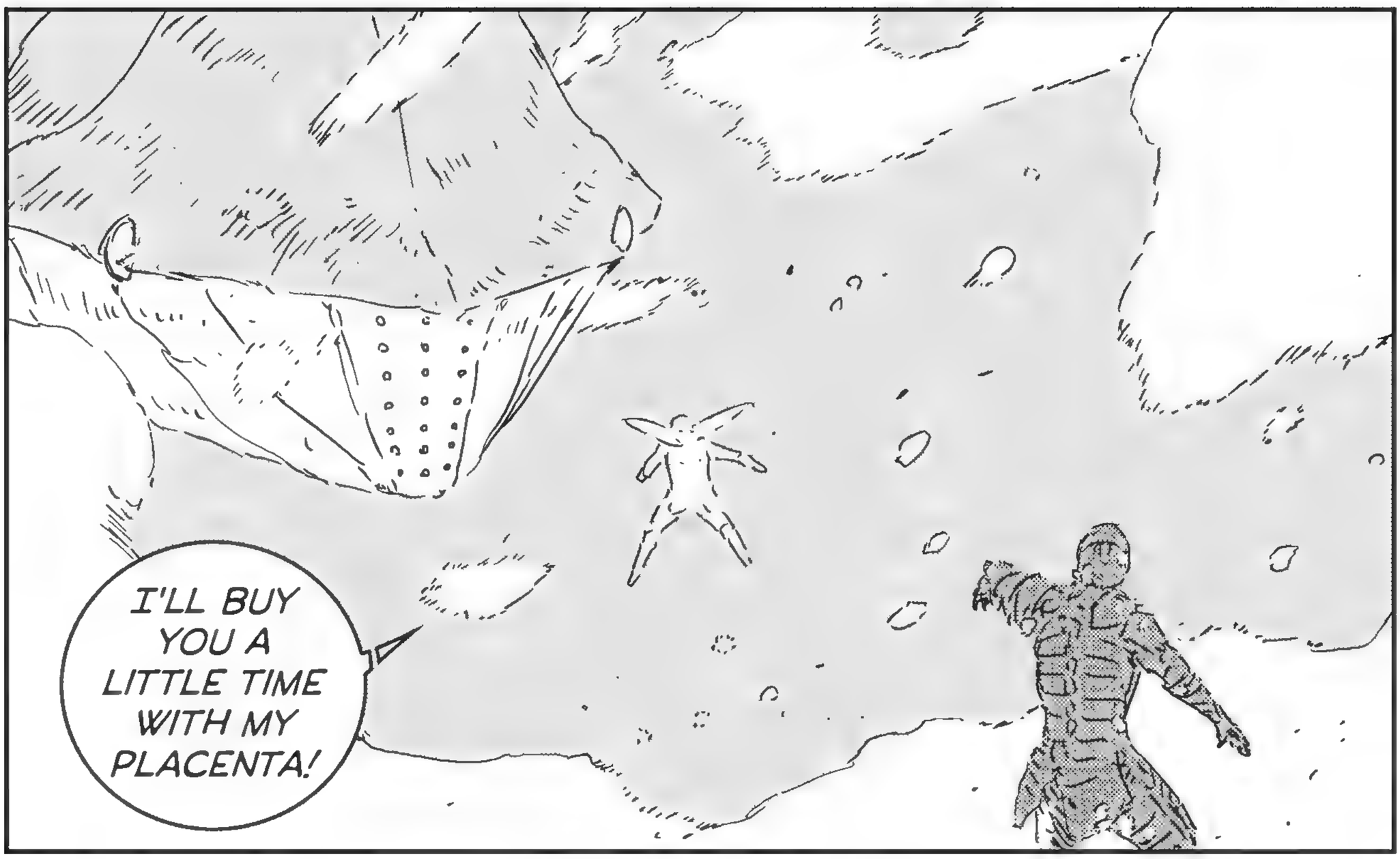

ZWABAAM

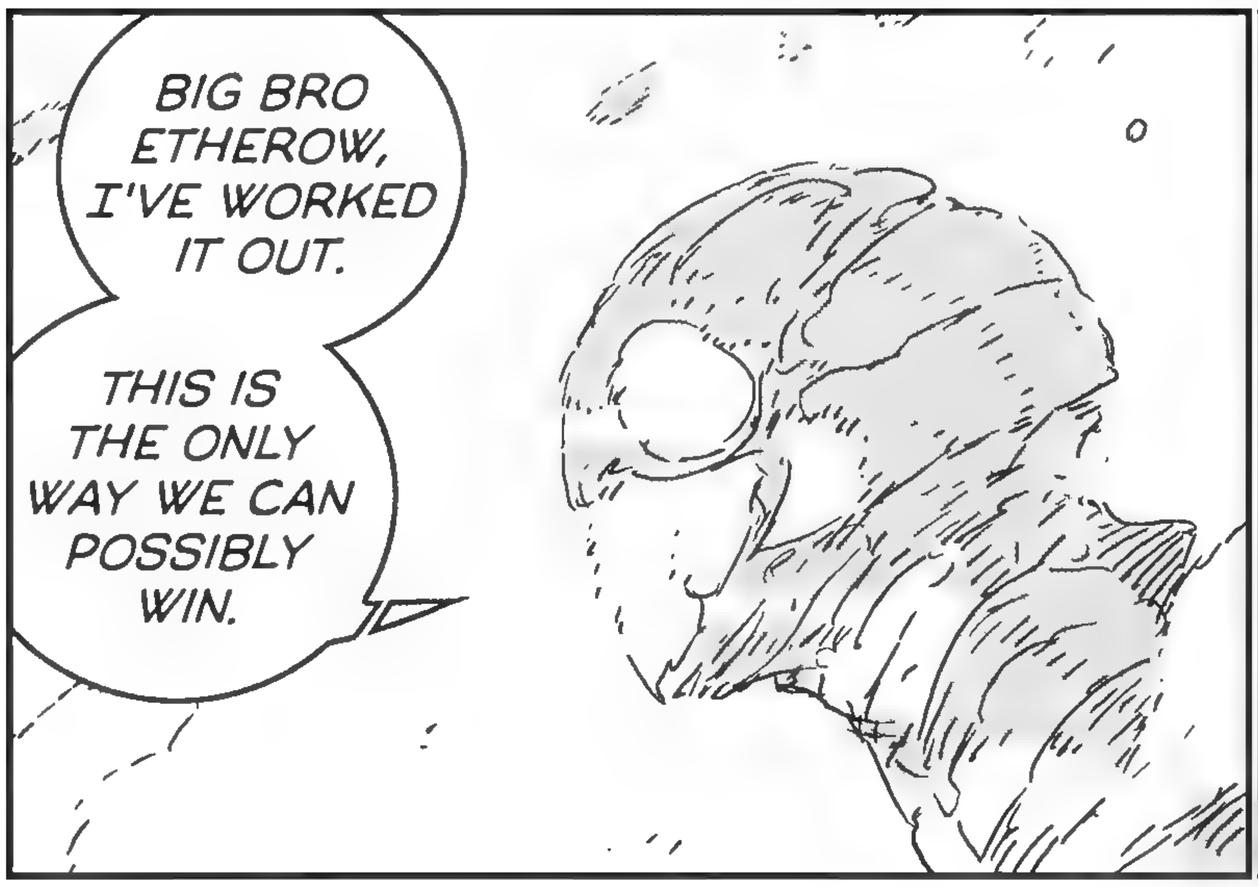

JJWRSSSH
BLORT BLT

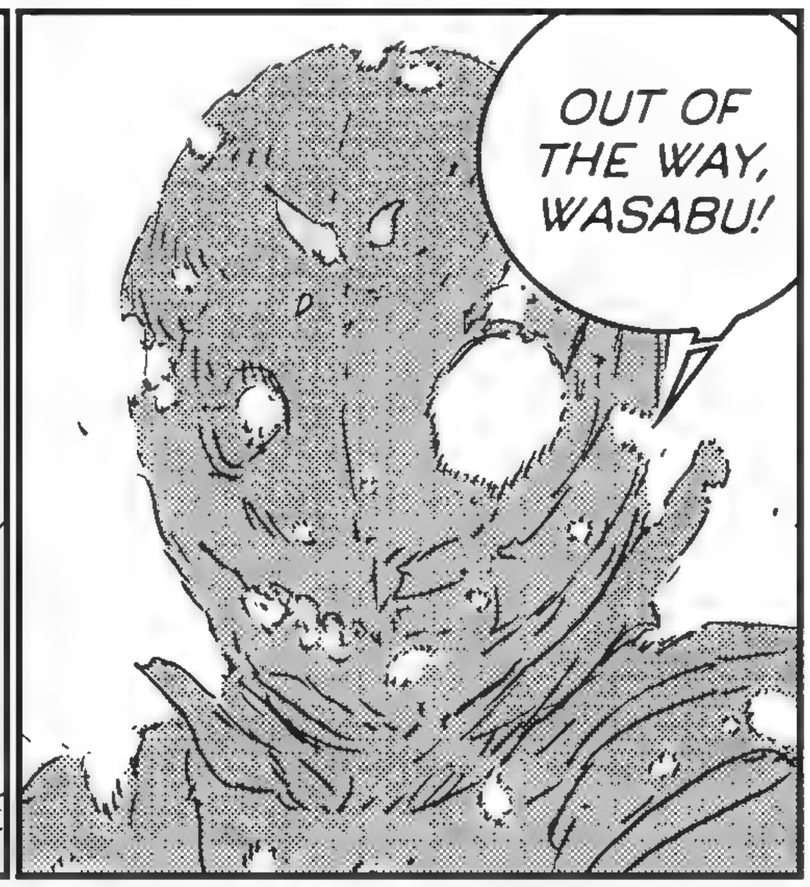

YOUR ARMOR'S DAMAGED FROM THE HEAT!
THE NEXT TIME YOU GET WITH IT, IT'LL BURN YOU DOWN TO YOUR SKELETON!

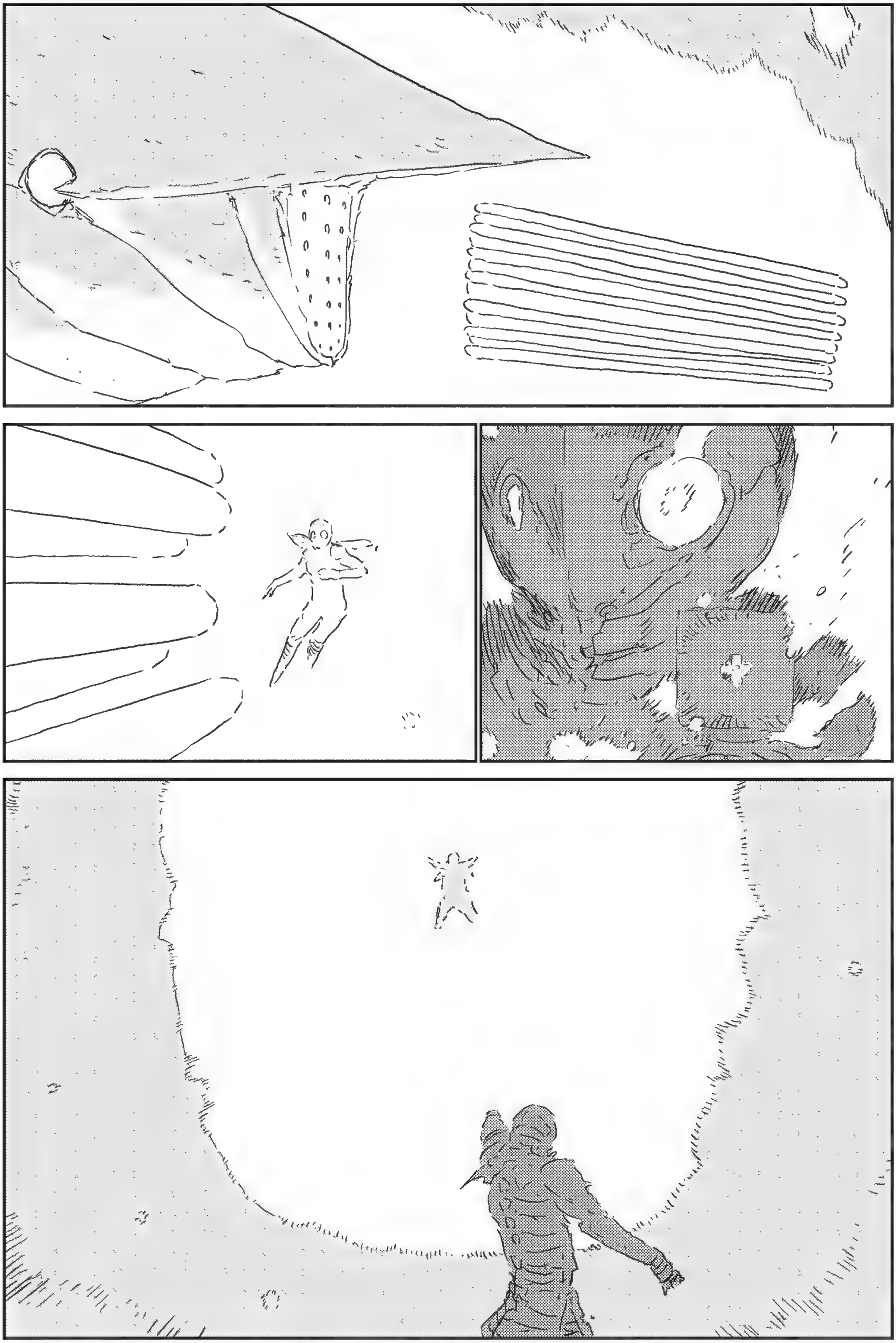



AM I REALLY DONE FOR THIS TIME?
THE ENEMY'S HEAT RAY IS FASTER THAN THE AMBS.


I'LL BUY YOU A LITTLE TIME WITH MY PLACENTA!

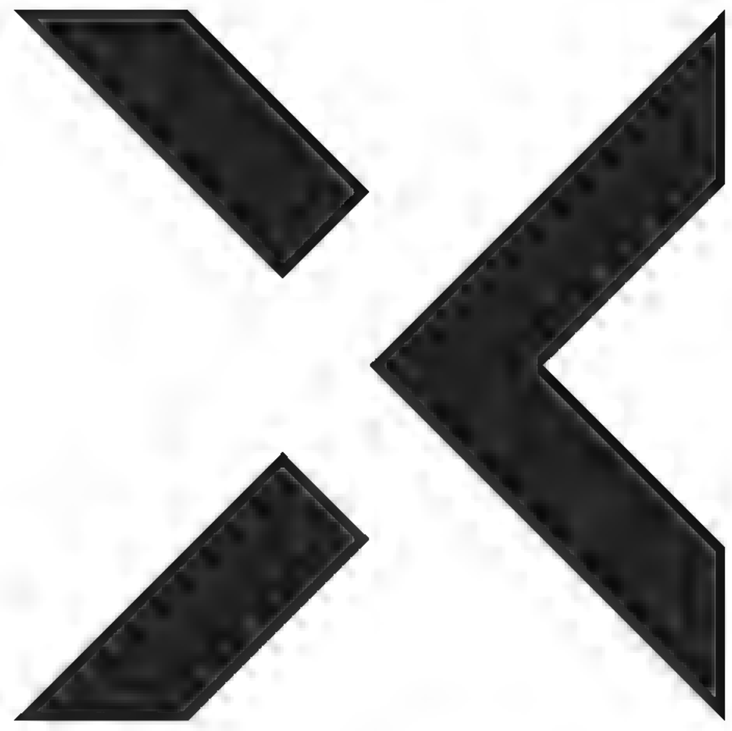

BIG BRO ETHEROW, I'VE WORKED IT OUT.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN POSSIBLY WIN.


OUT OF THE WAY, WASABU!

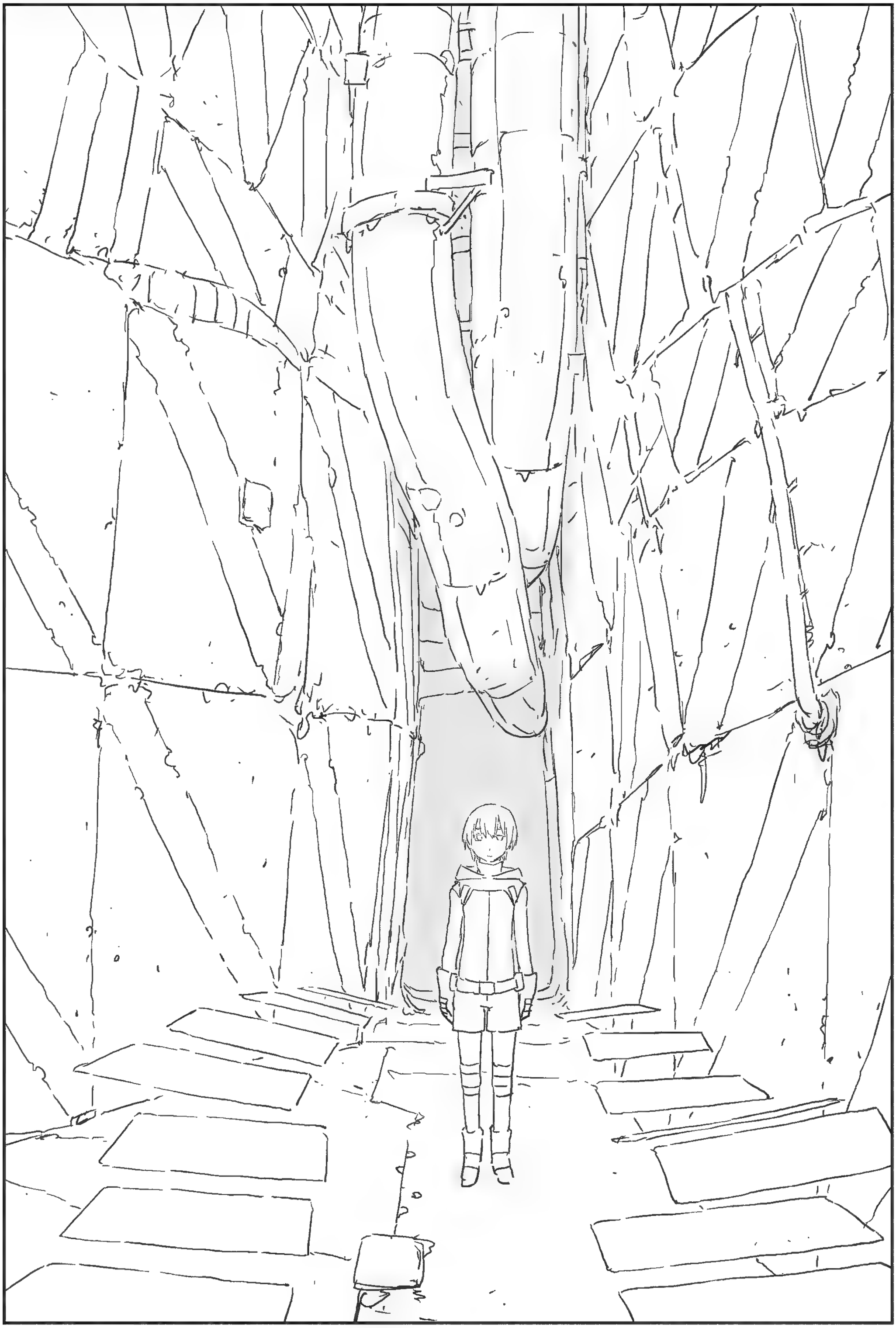


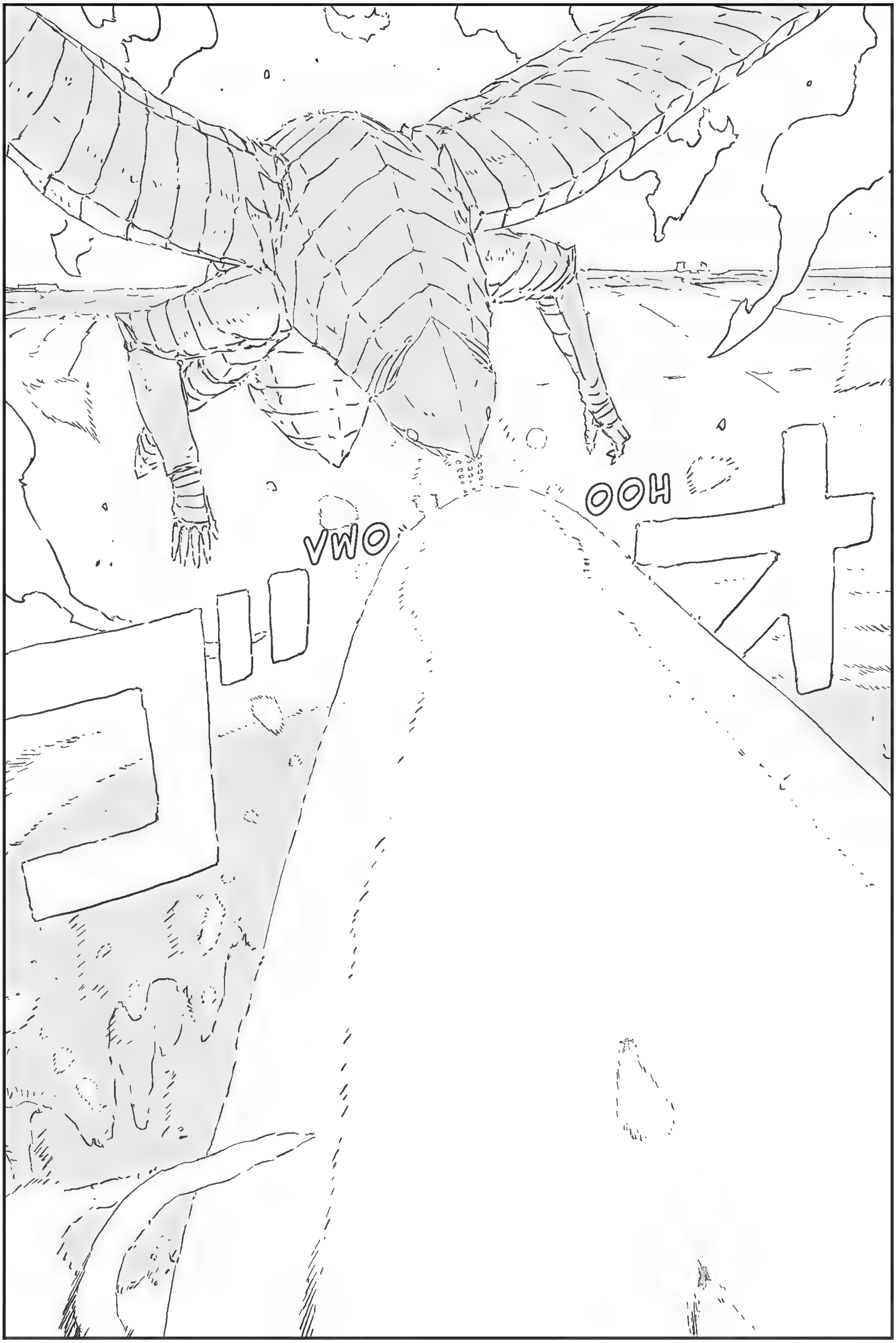
CHAPTER 50 END

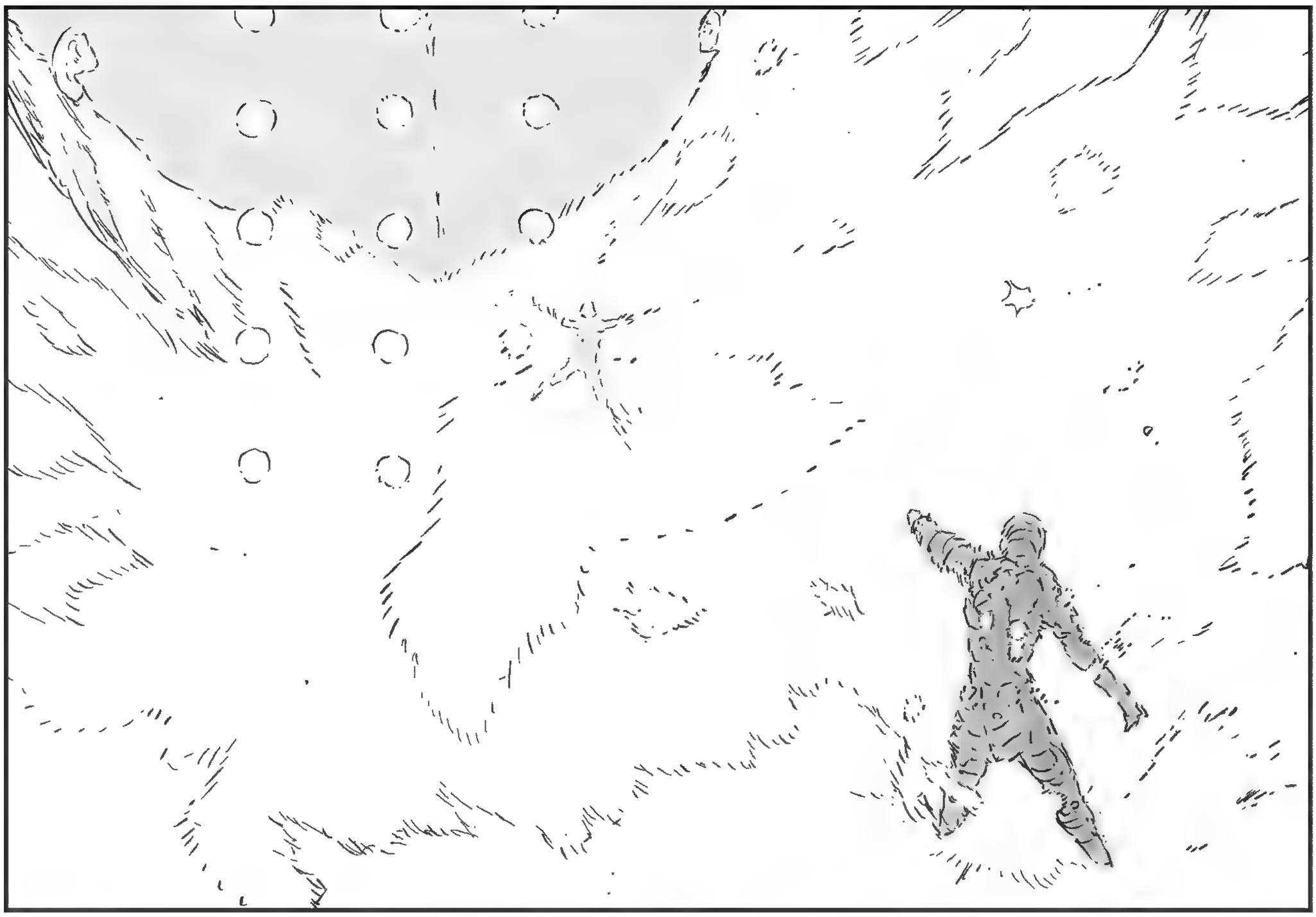
APOSIMZ

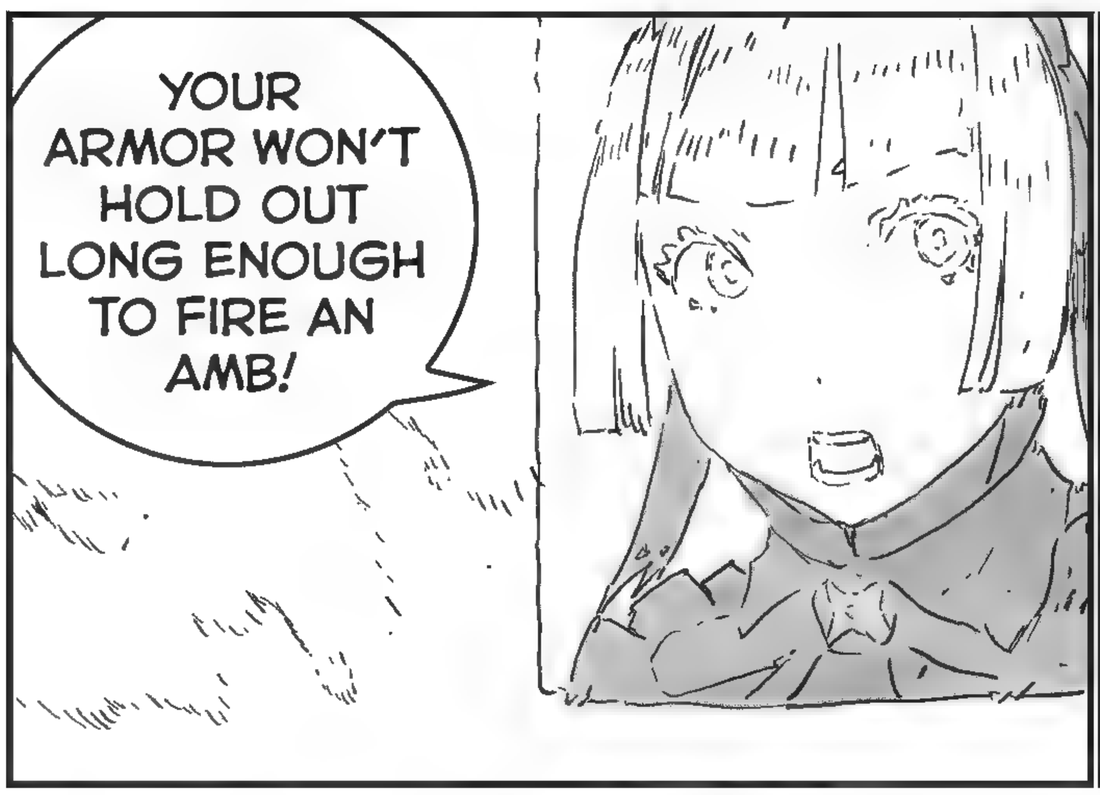


CHAPTER 51

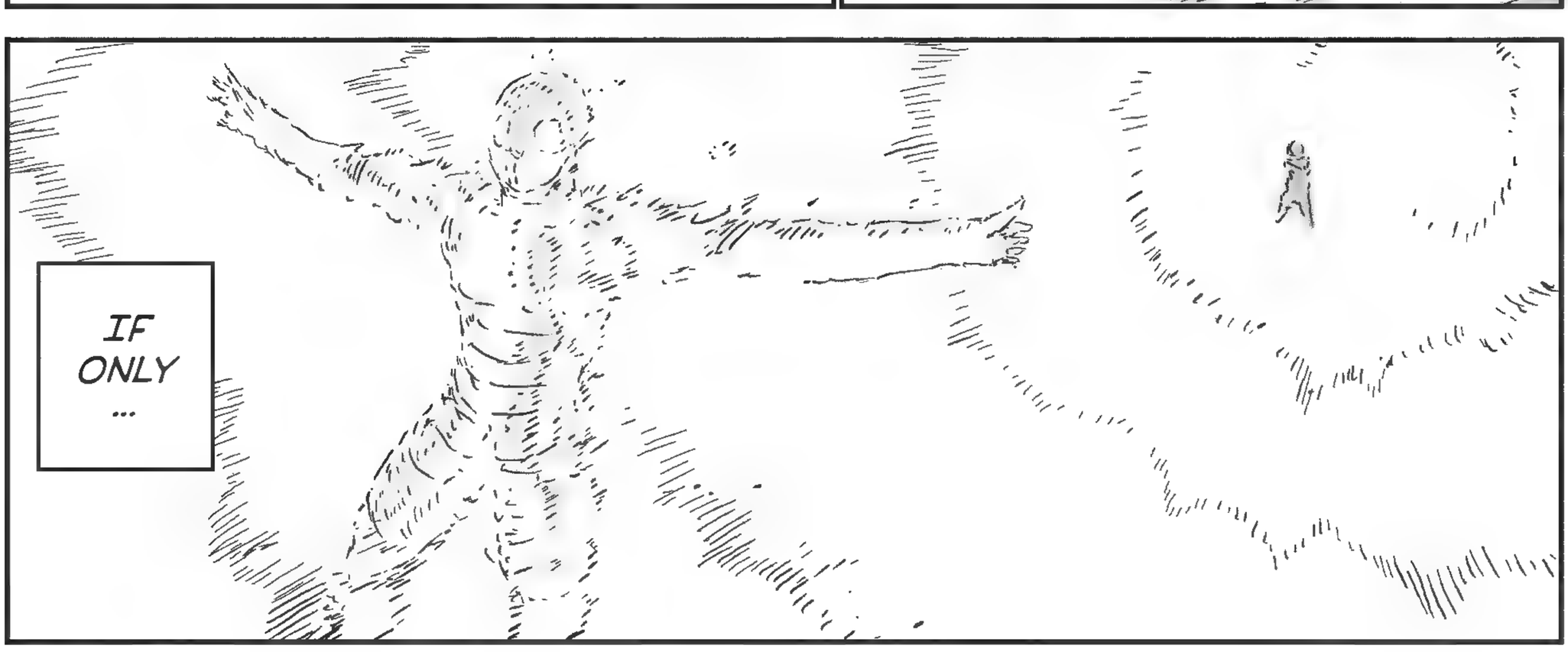



VWO
OOH




YOUR ARMOR WON'T HOLD OUT LONG ENOUGH TO FIRE AN AMB!

WOOSH

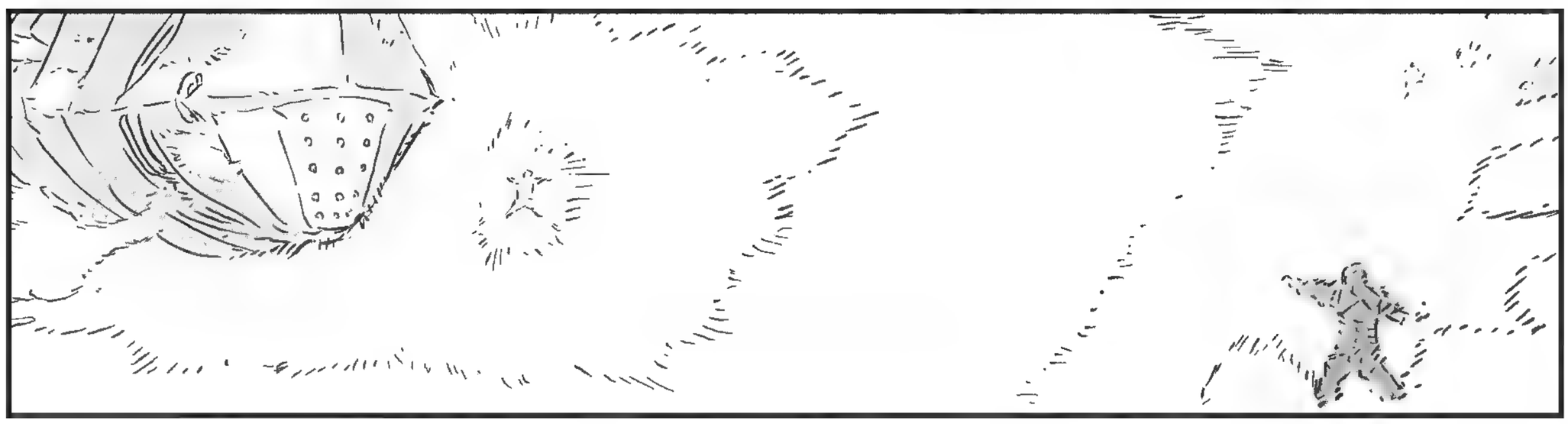

IF ONLY ...

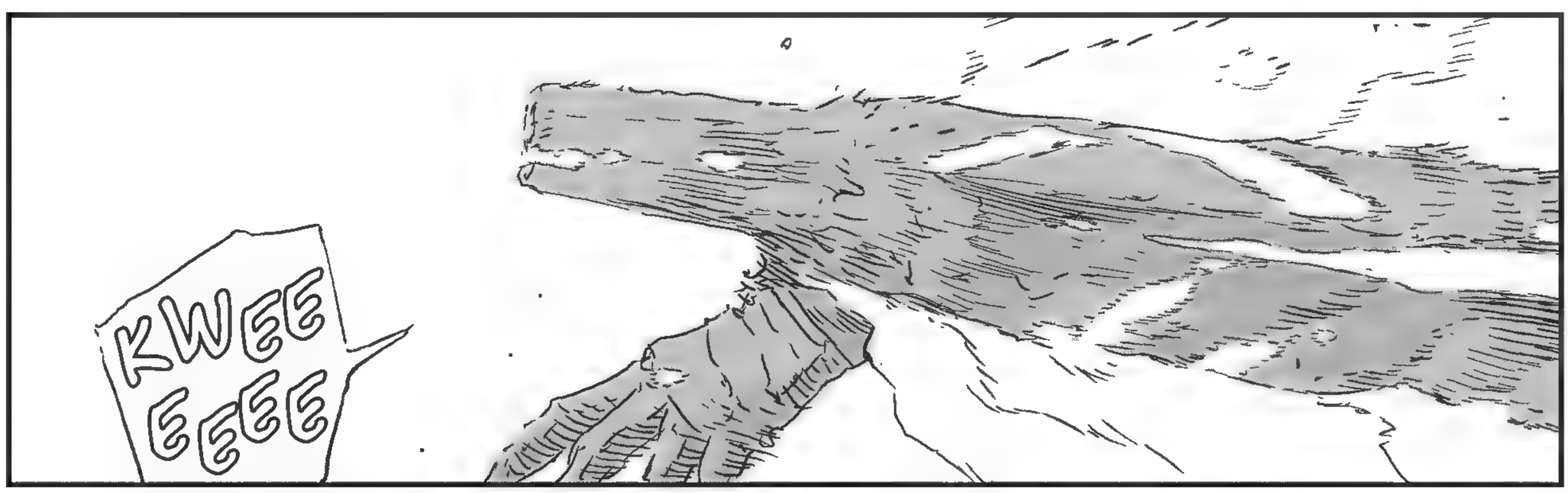
IF BIG BROTHER ETHEROW DIES TOO,

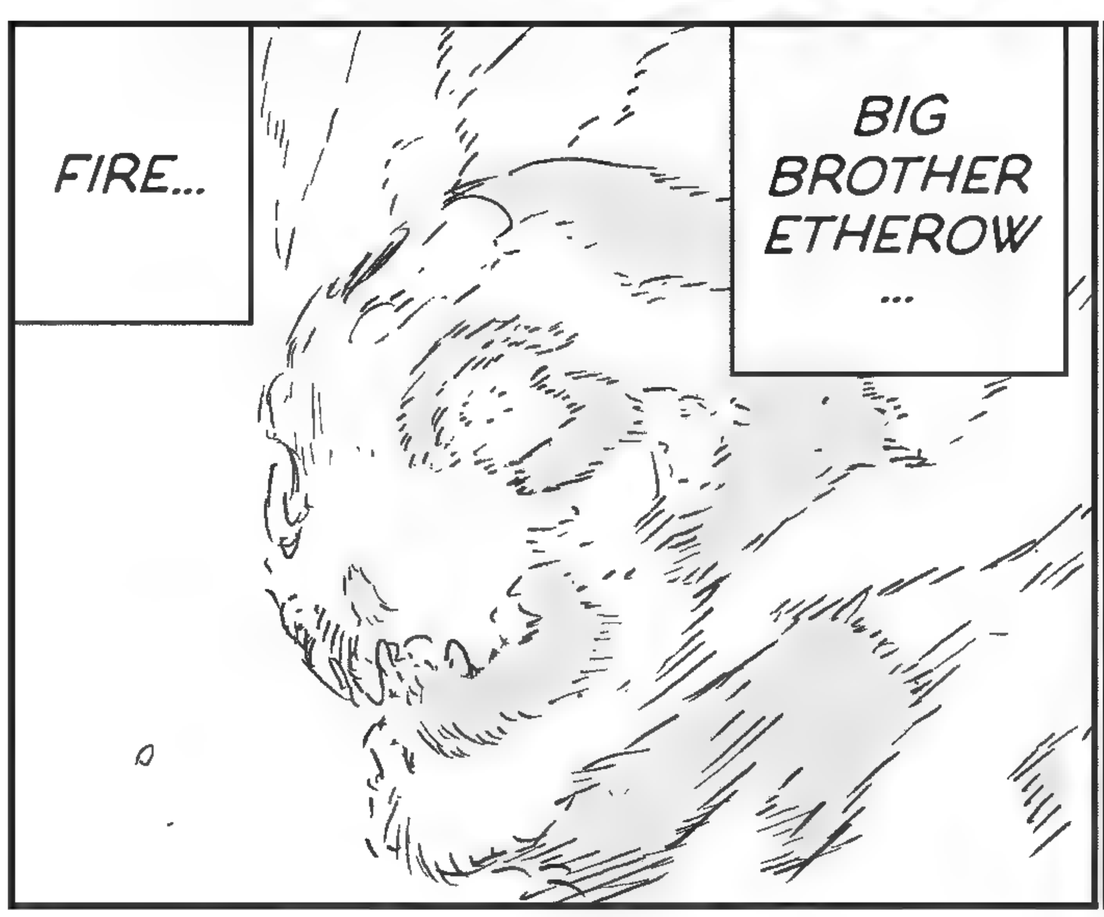
IT'LL BE THE END OF THE WORLD.

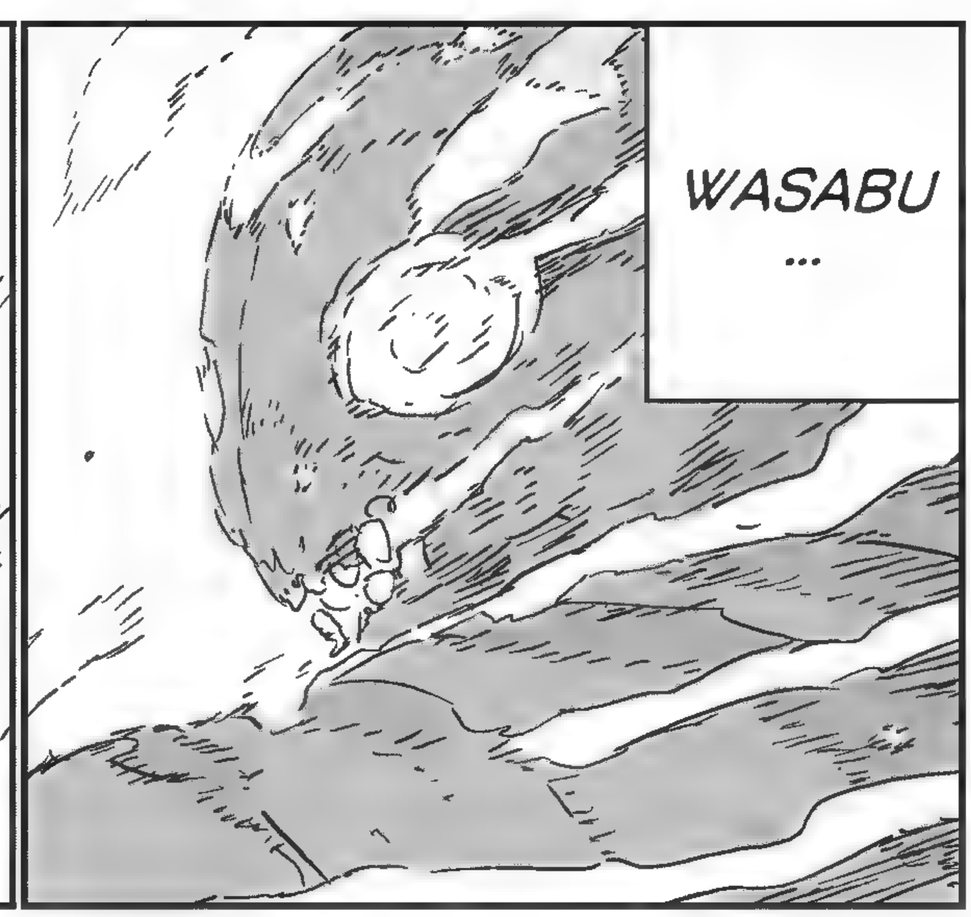
IF ONLY I HAD MADE AN EFFORT AND TRIED TO GROW MORE,

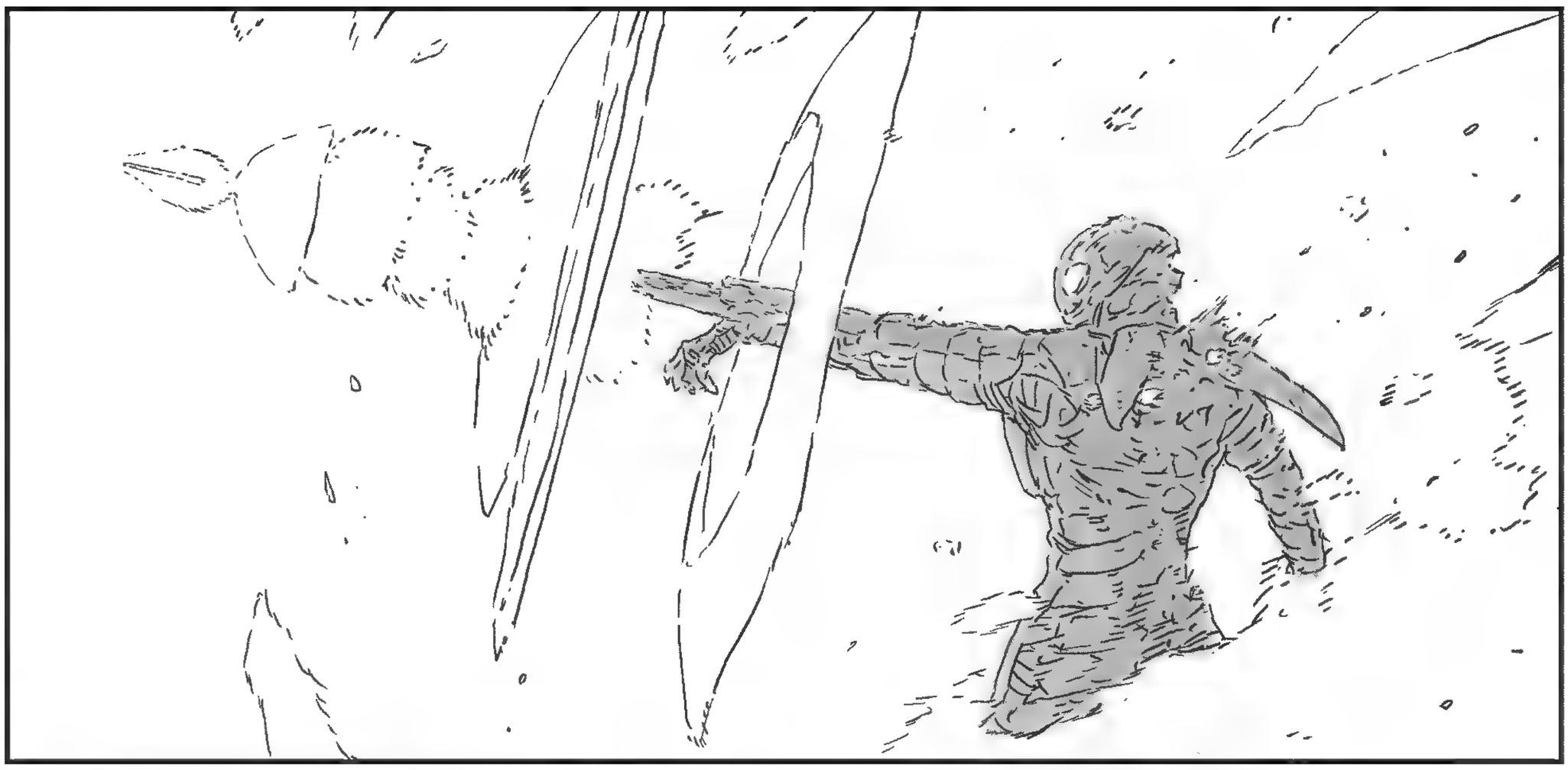
MAYBE I WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROTECT KEISHA.

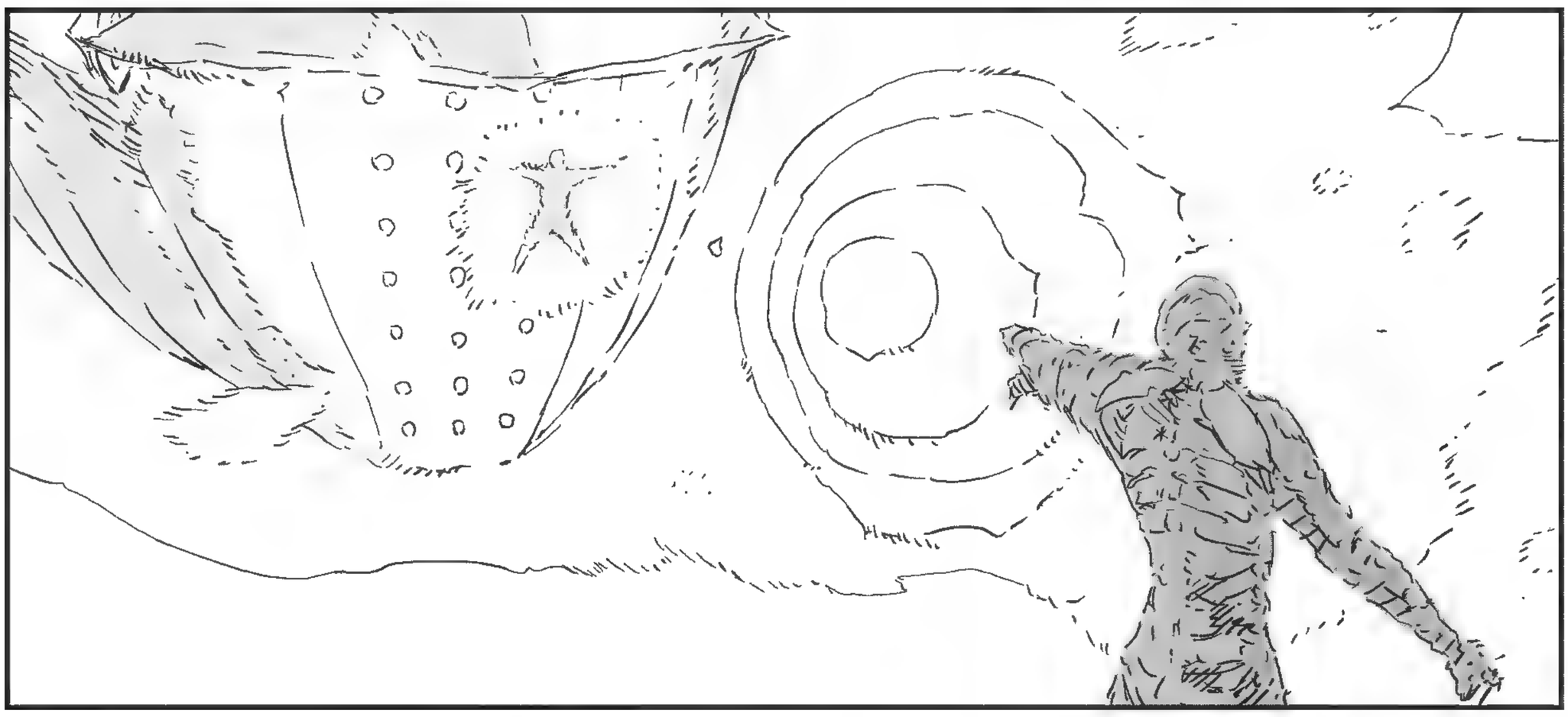


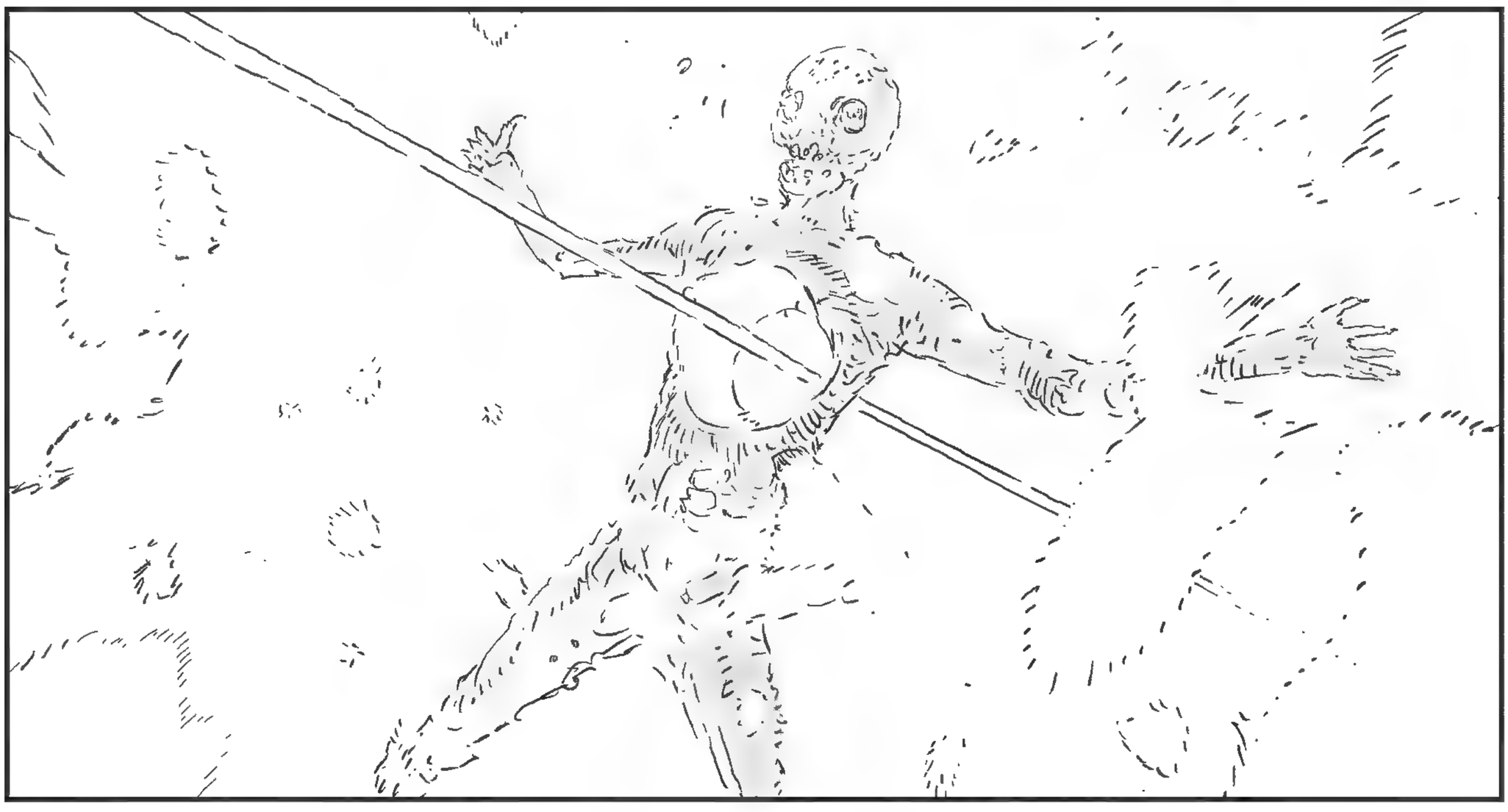


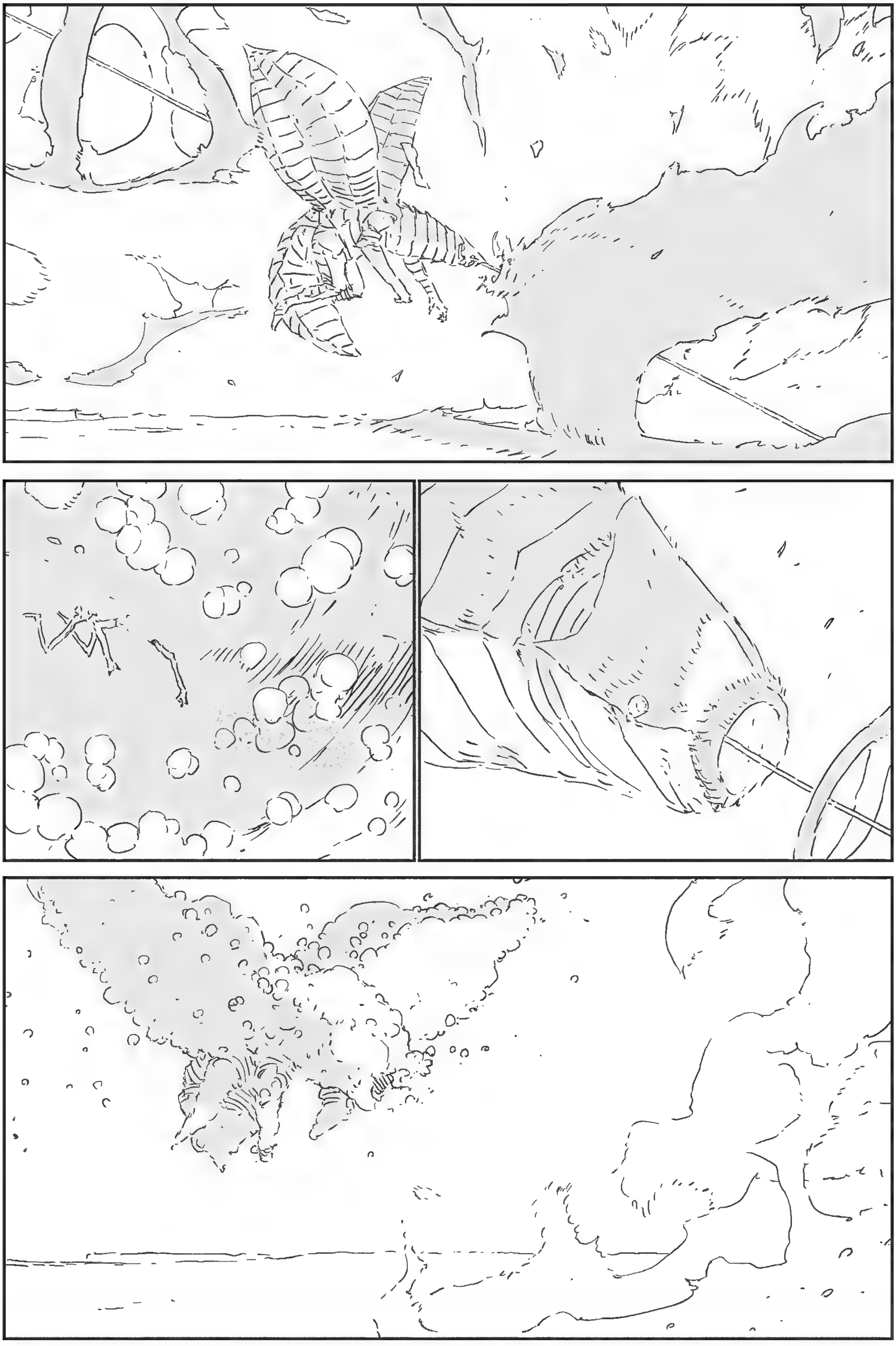


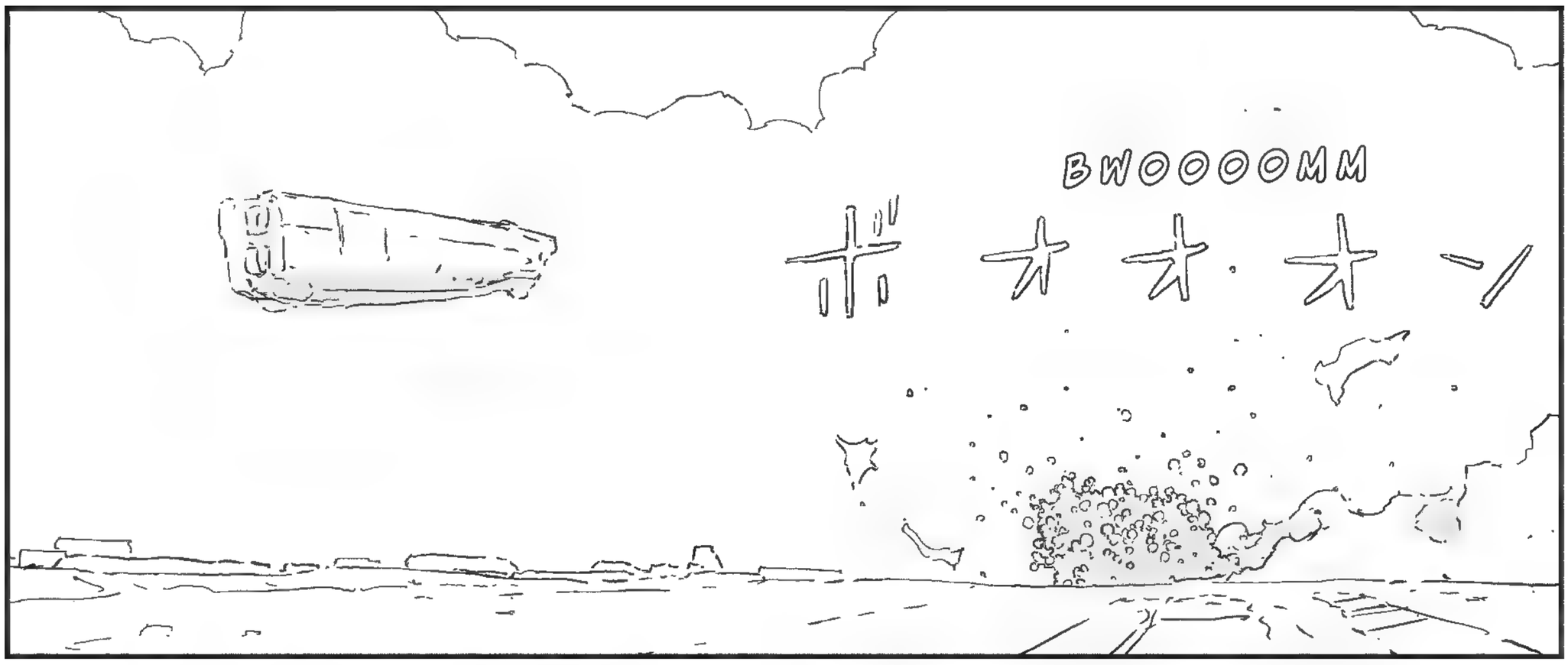


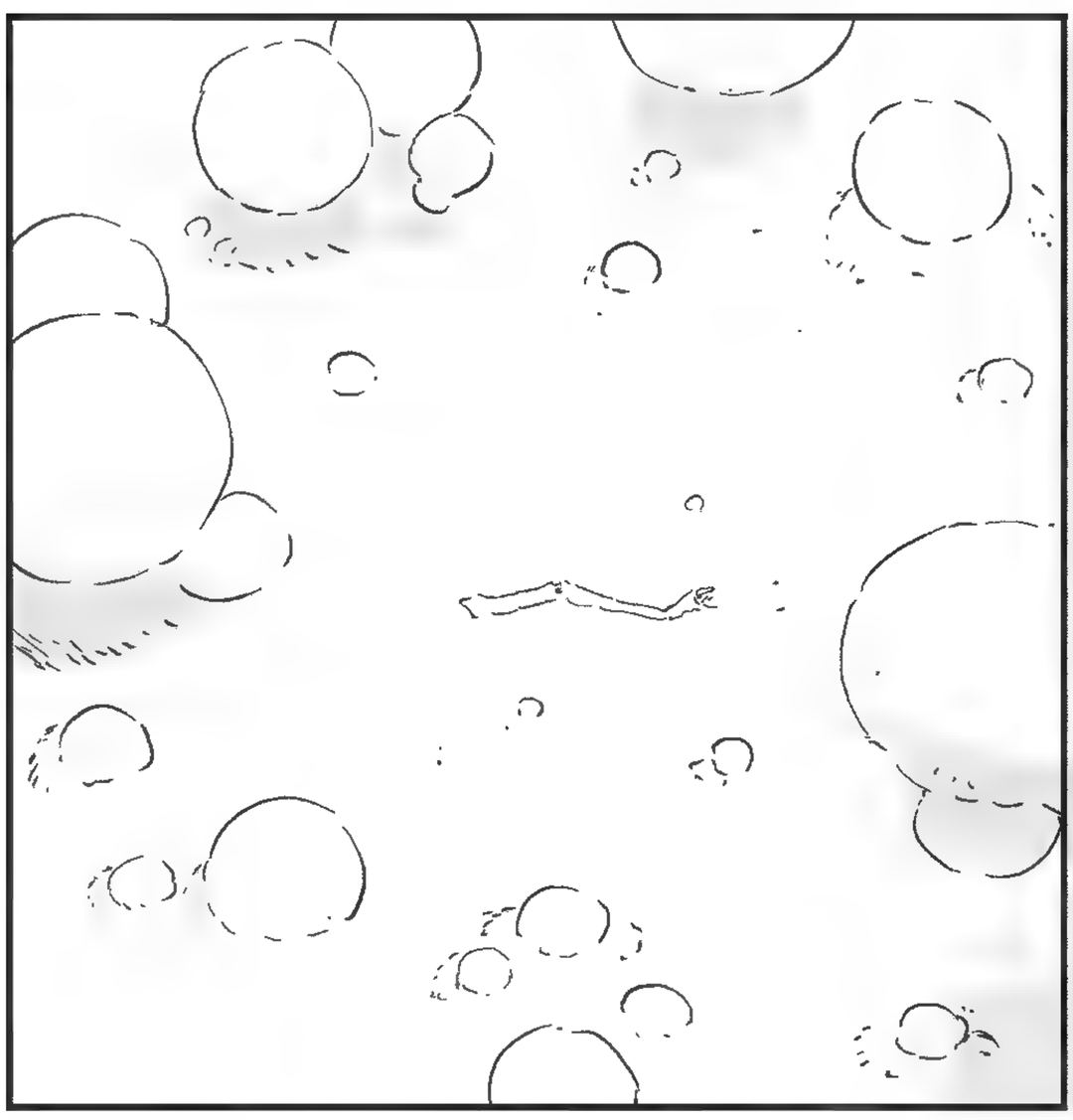




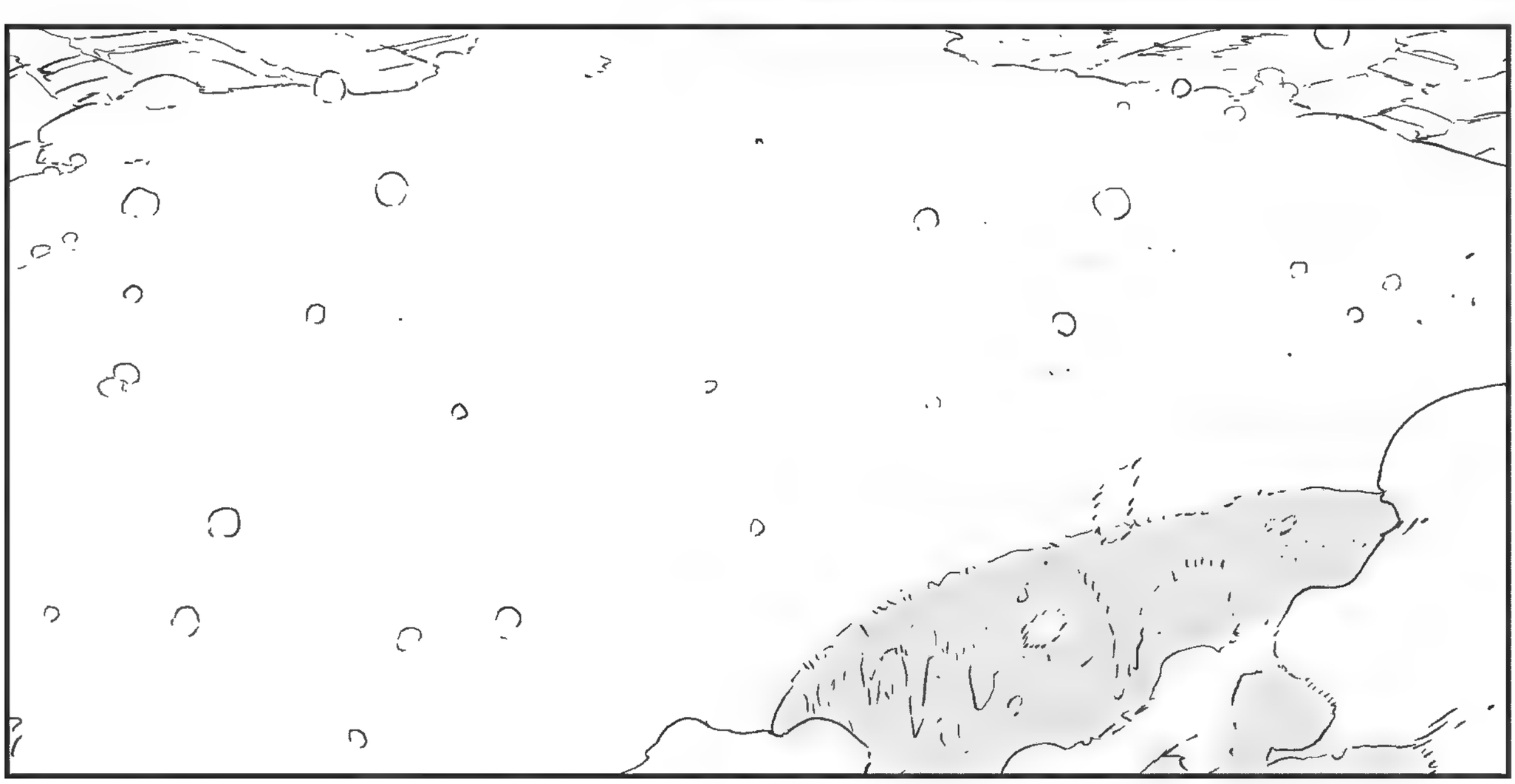


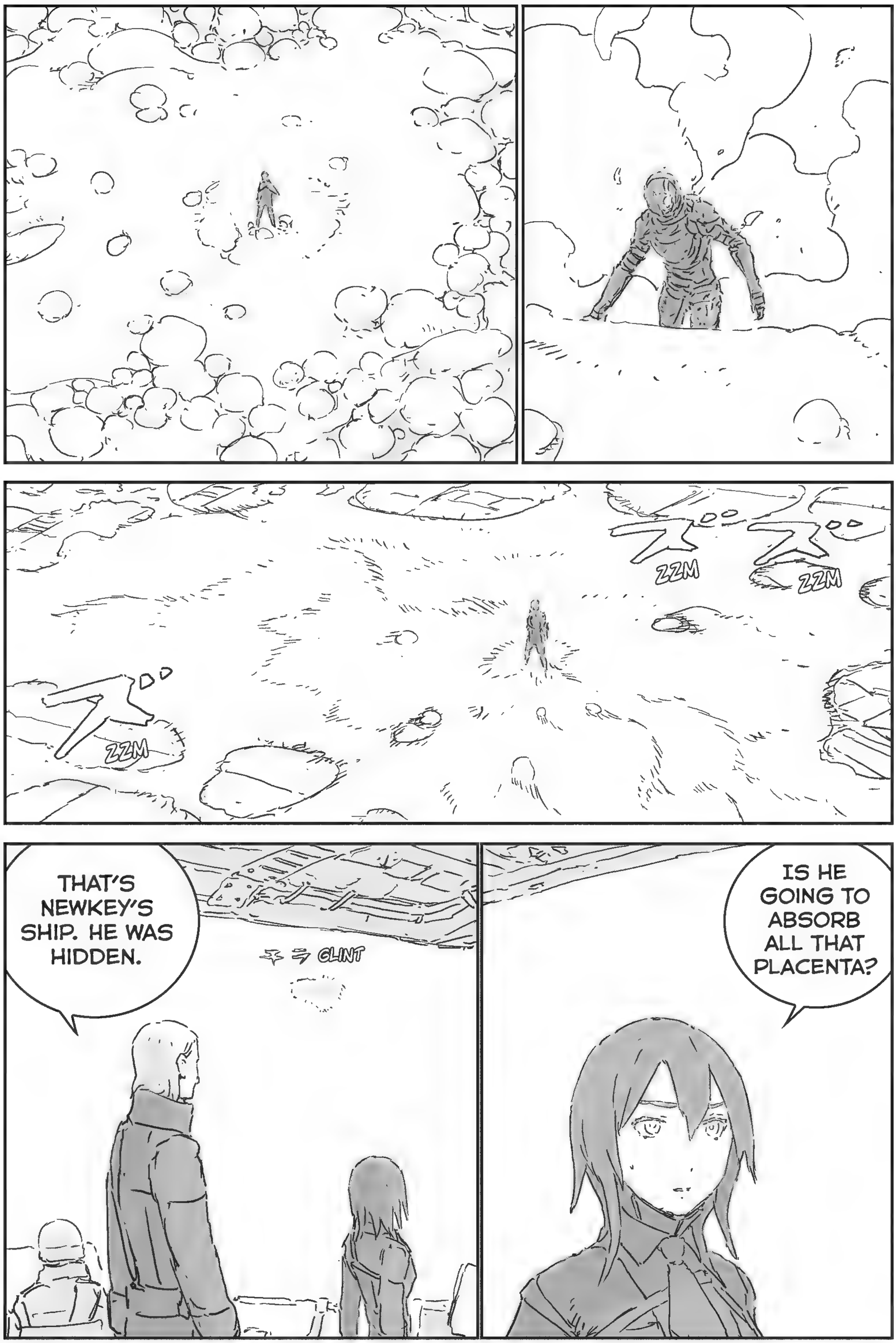


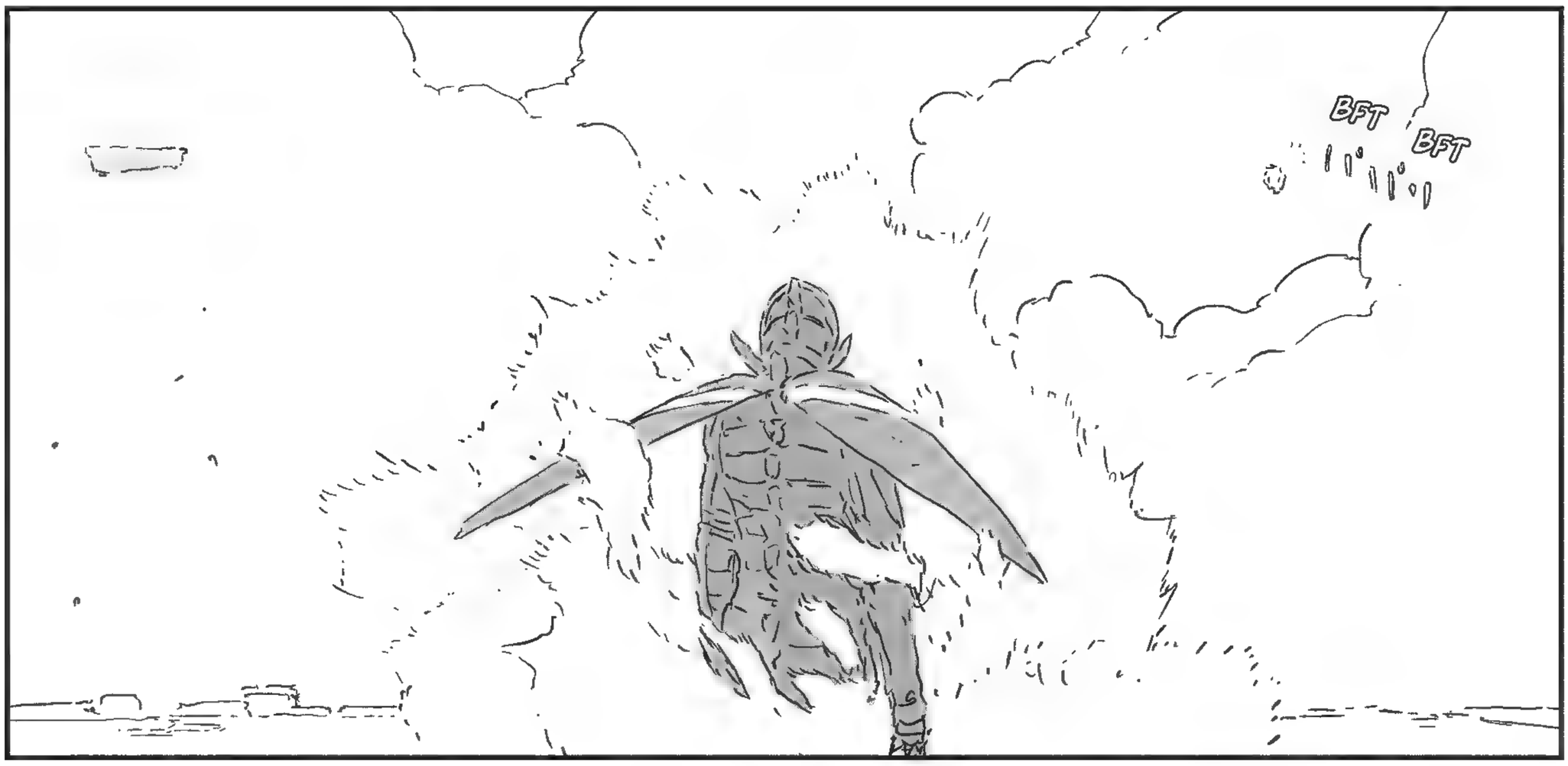

BWOOOOMM

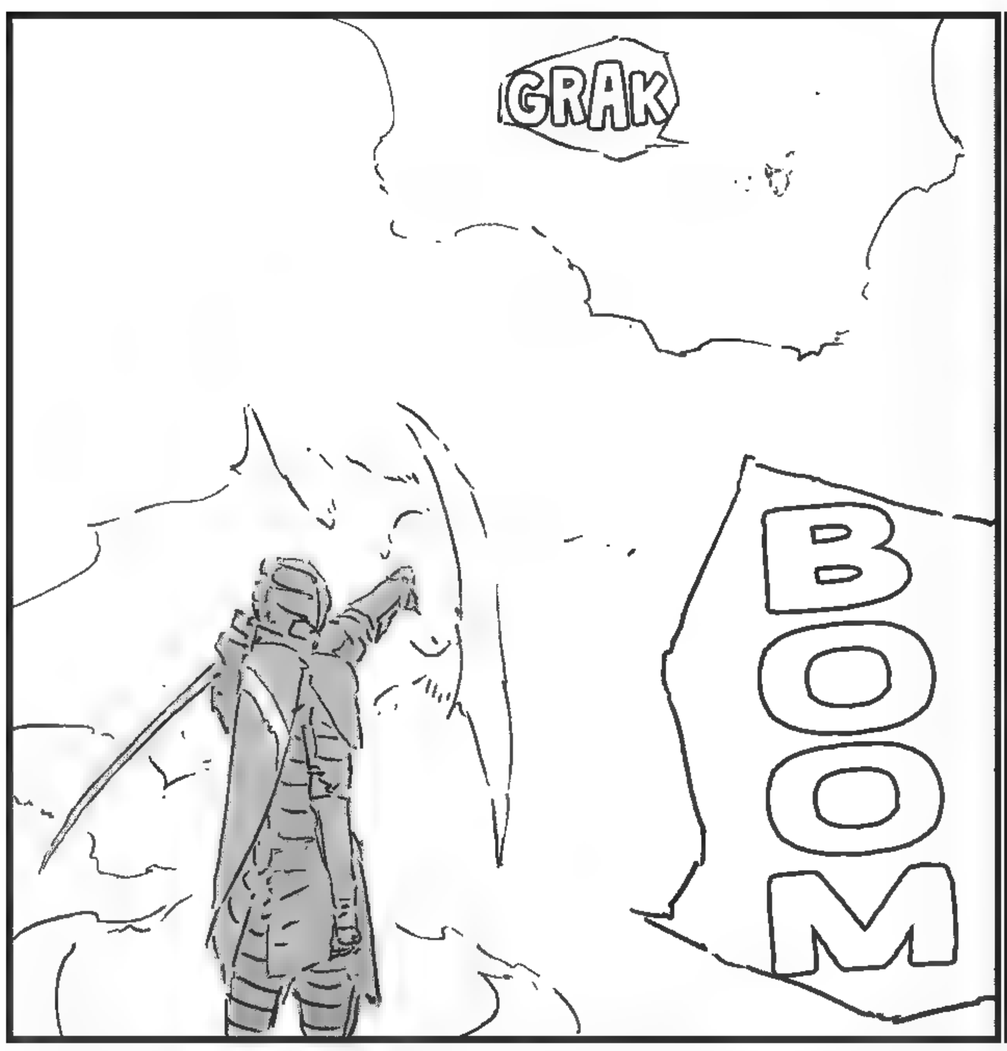


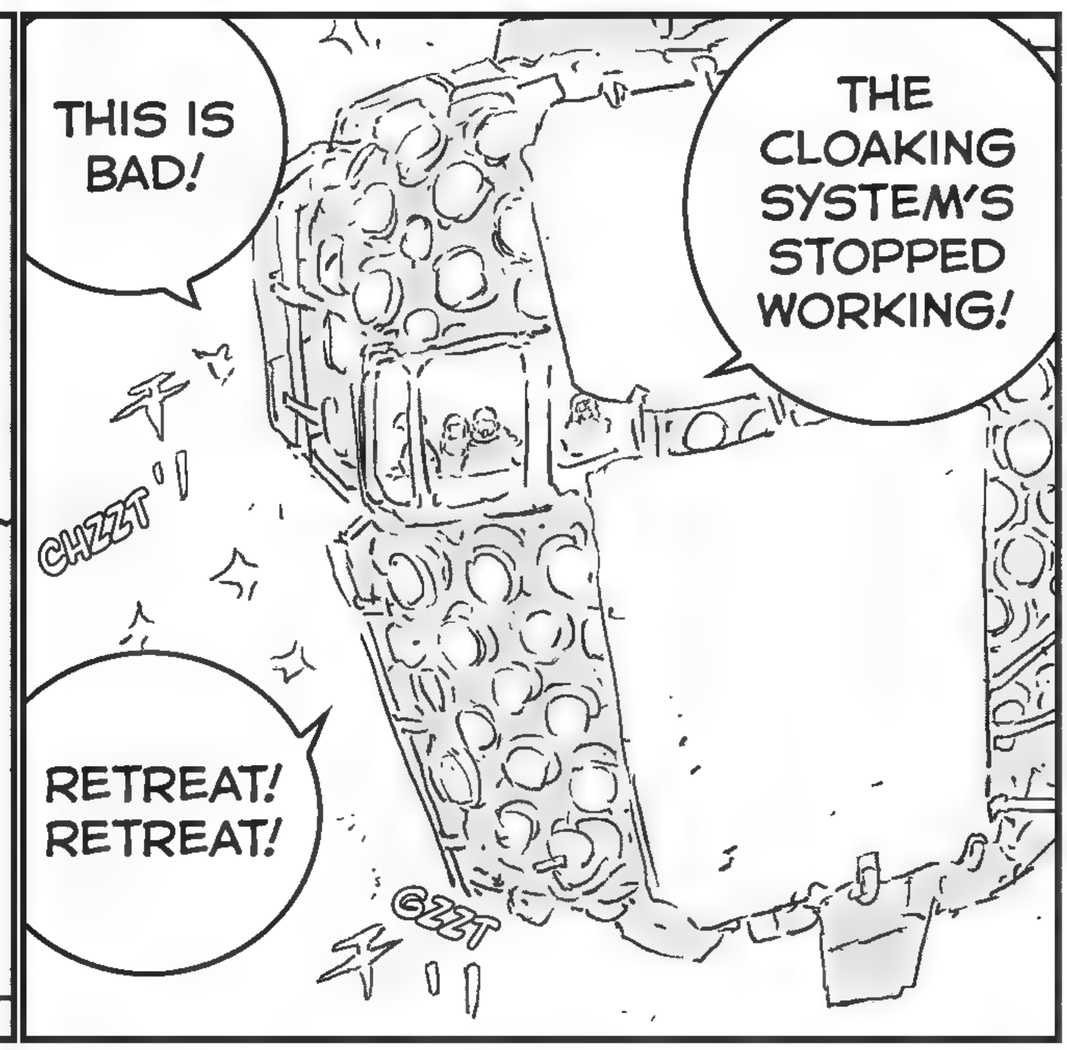
HE LOST
...

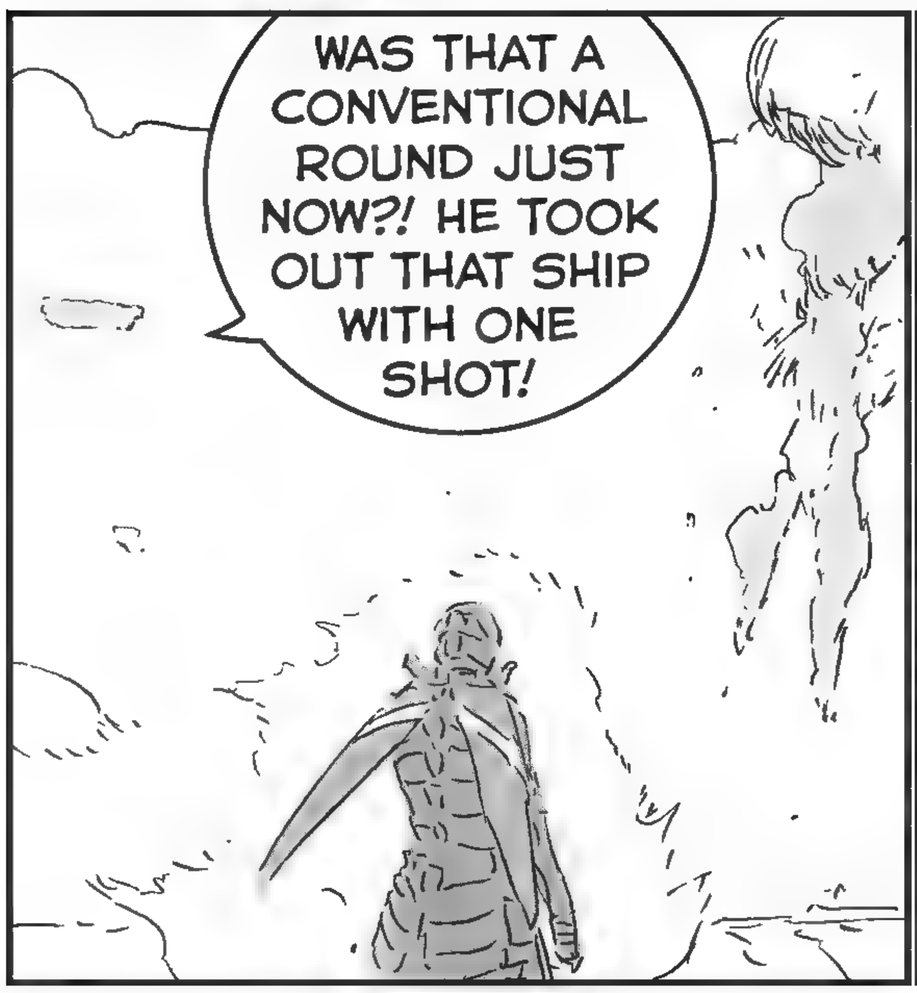


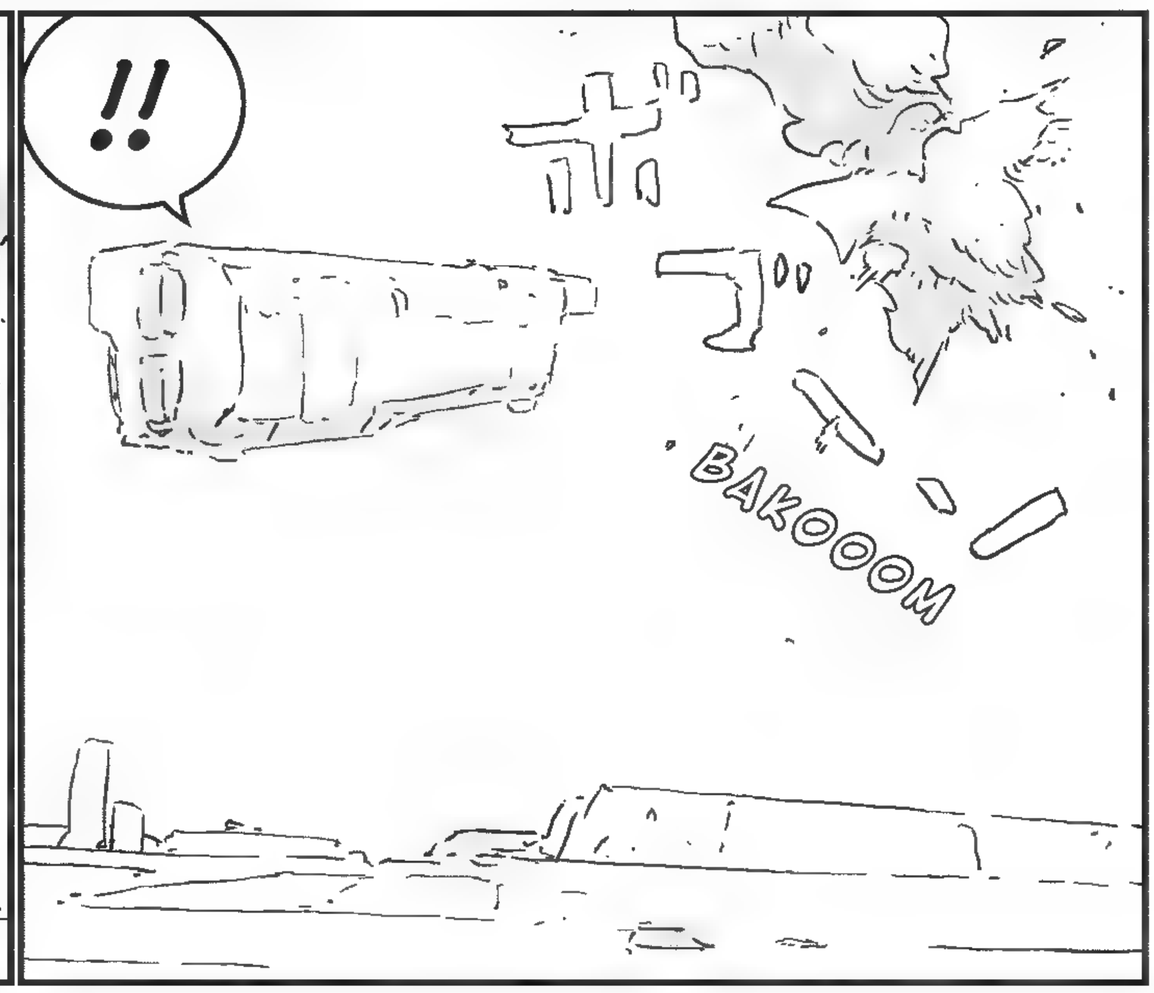

ZZM
ZZM
ZZM
THAT'S NEWKEY'S SHIP. HE WAS HIDDEN.
GLINT
IS HE GOING TO ABSORB ALL THAT PLACENTA?

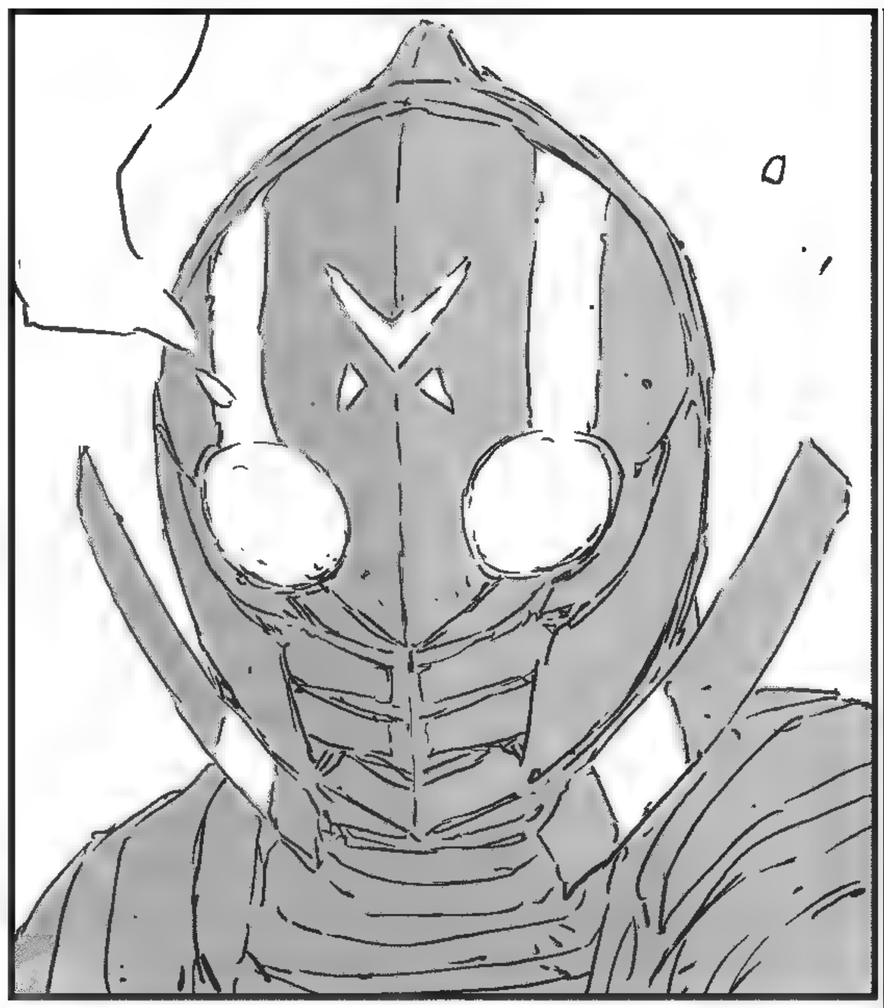

BFT
BFT

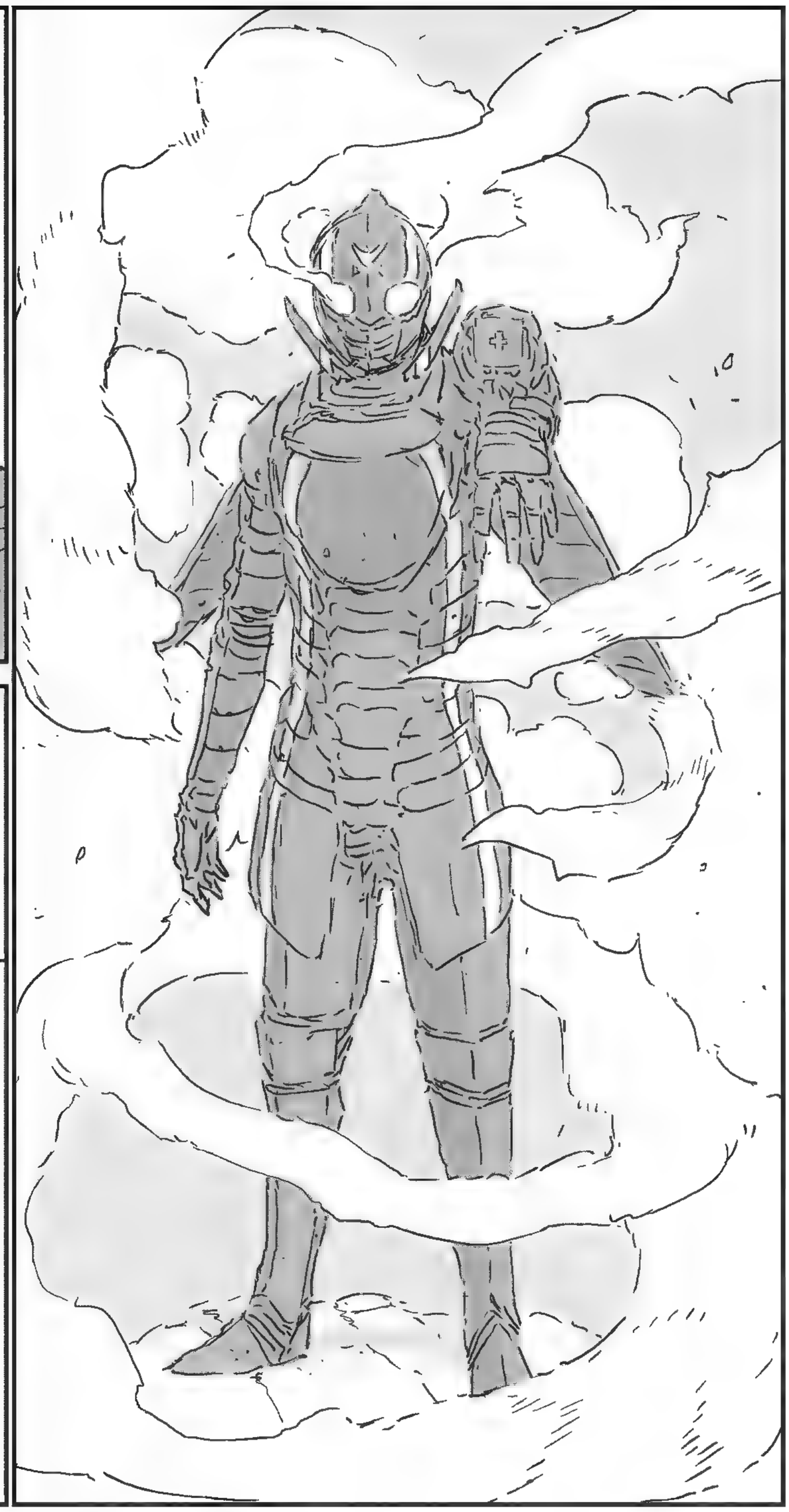

GRAK
BOOM

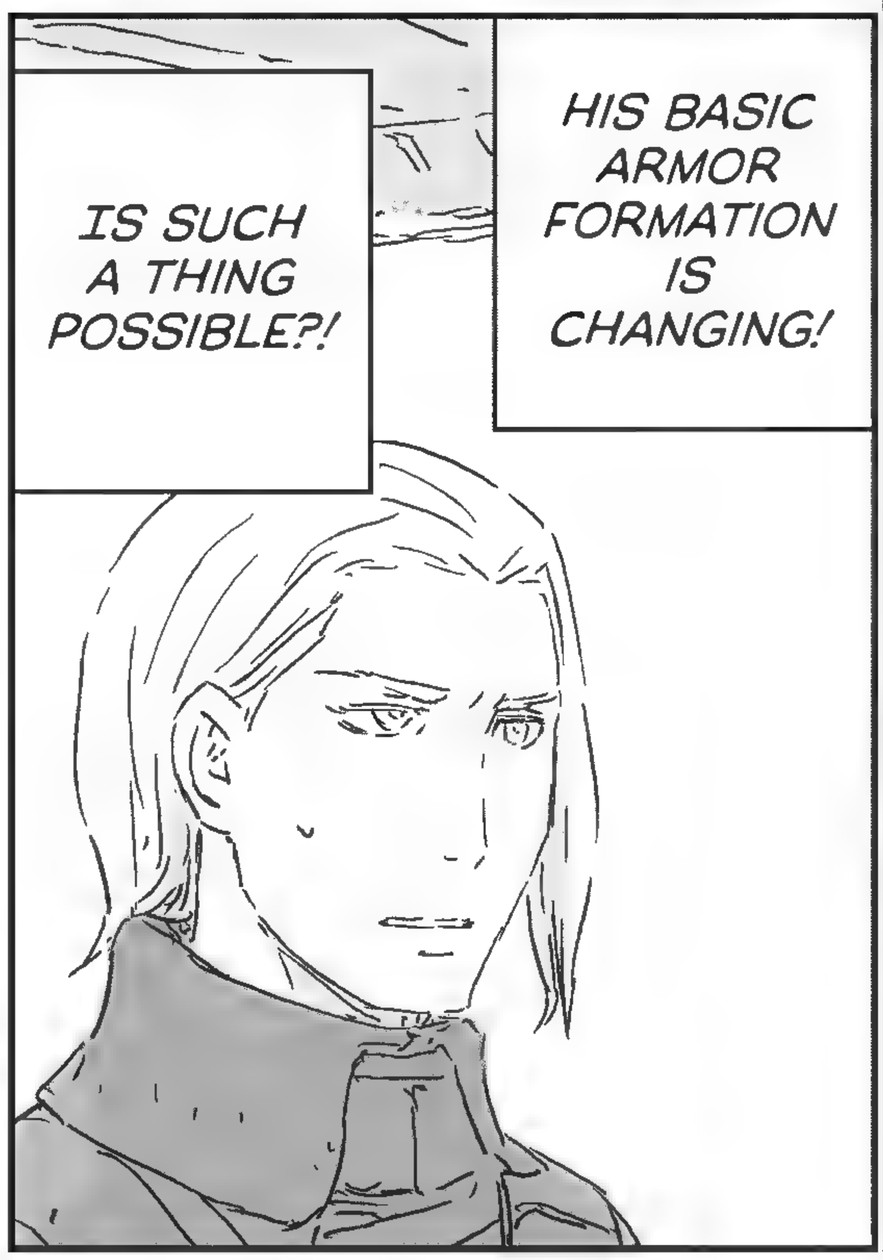

THIS IS BAD!
THE CLOAKING SYSTEM'S STOPPED WORKING!
CHZZT
RETREAT! RETREAT!
GZZT

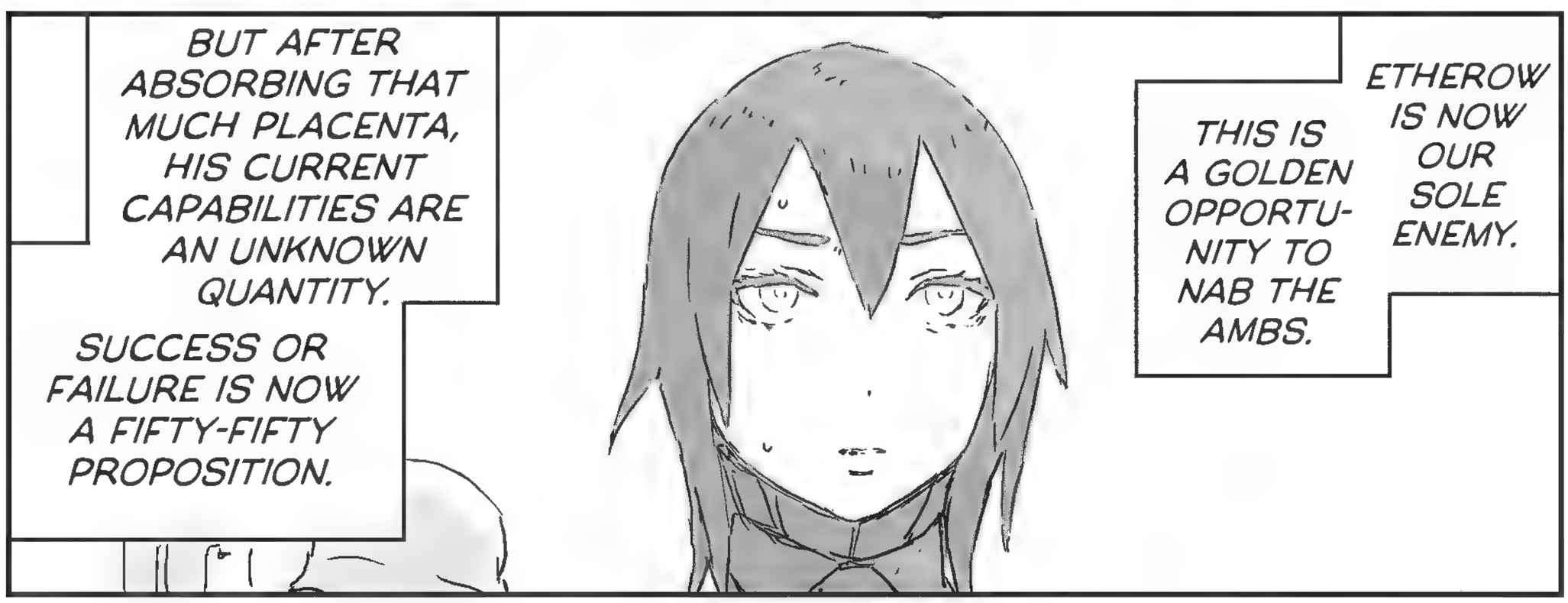

WAS THAT A CONVENTIONAL ROUND JUST NOW?! HE TOOK OUT THAT SHIP WITH ONE SHOT!


!!
BAKOOOM



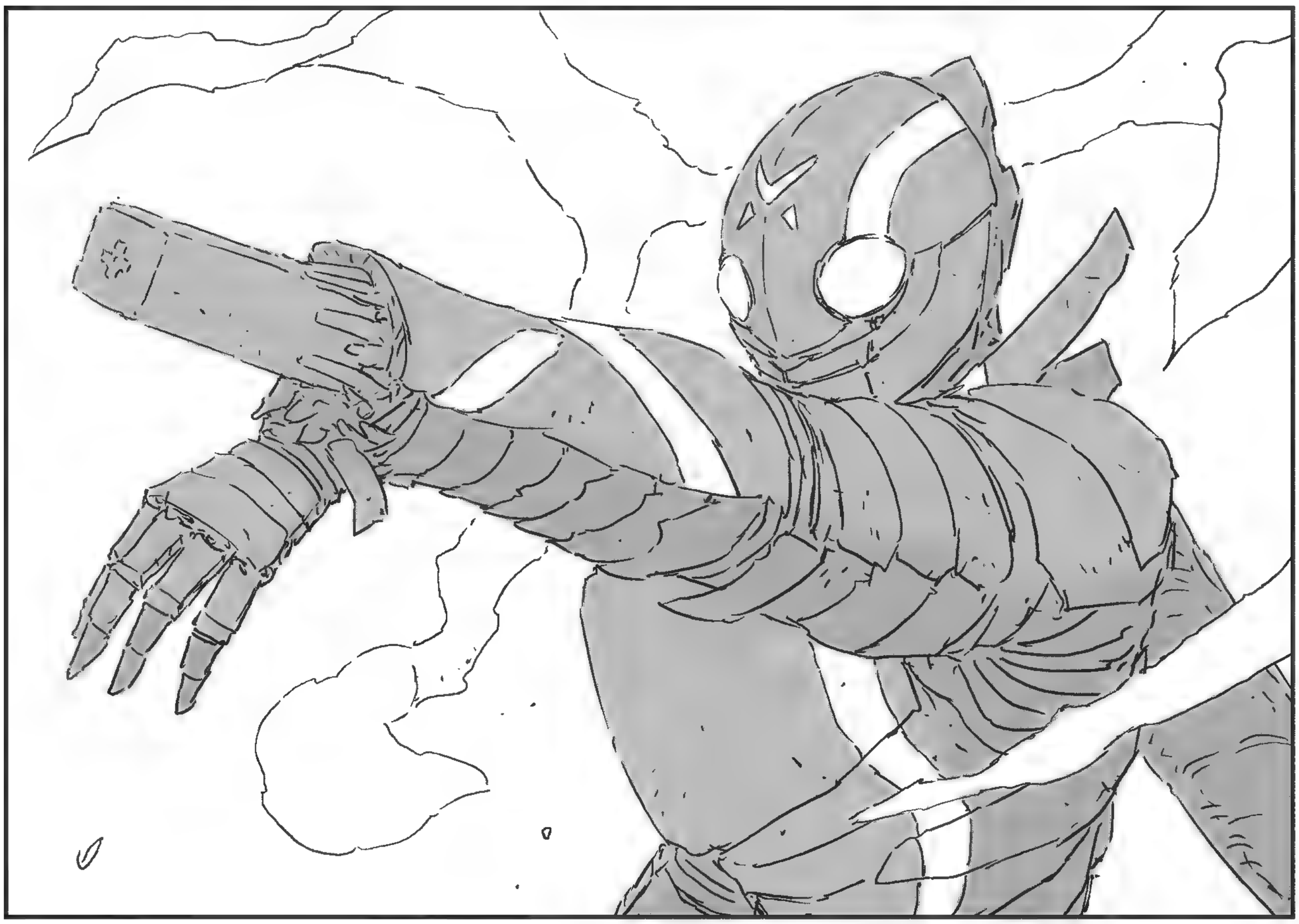


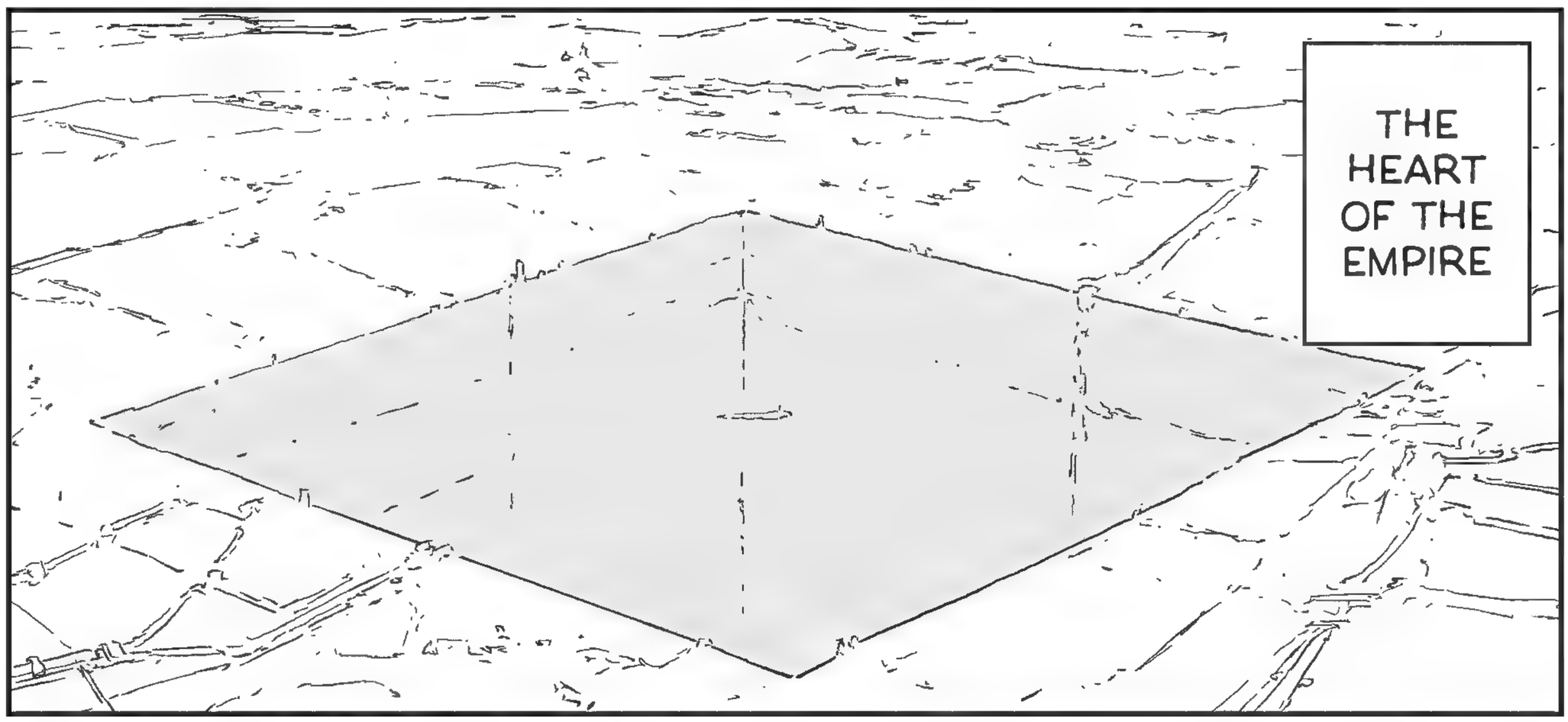

IS SUCH A THING POSSIBLE?!
HIS BASIC ARMOR FORMATION IS CHANGING!

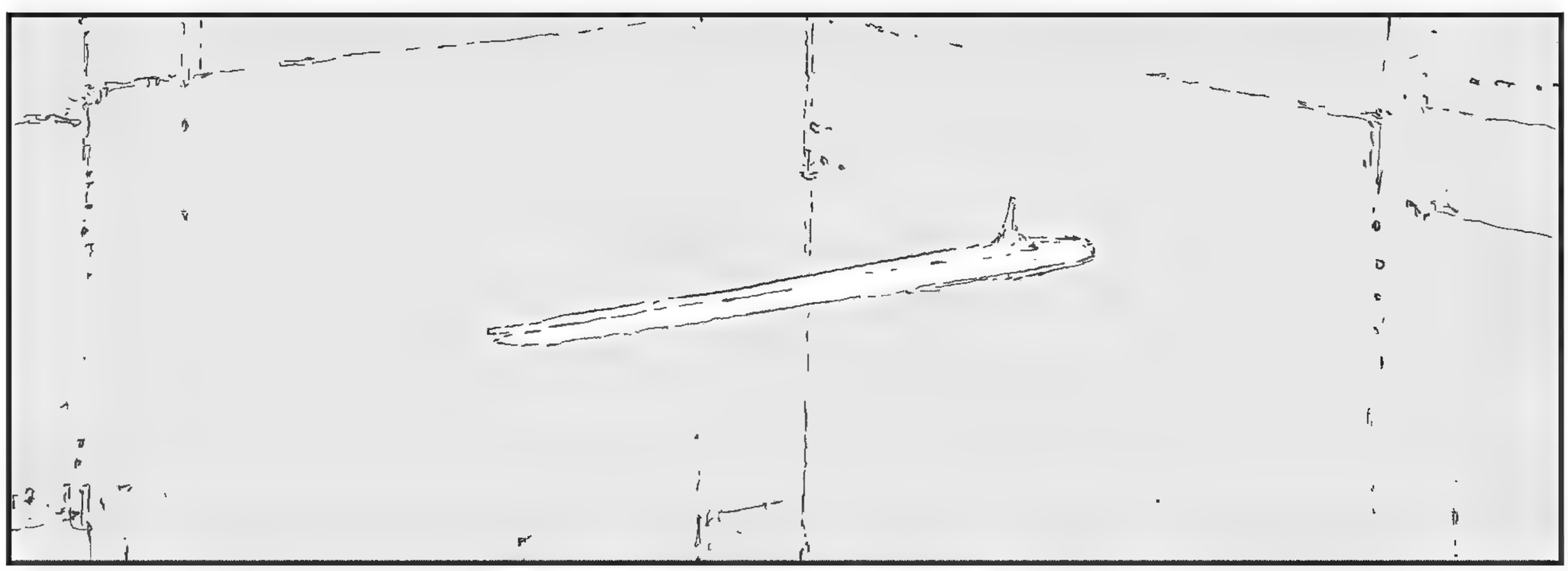

BUT AFTER ABSORBING THAT MUCH PLACENTA, HIS CURRENT CAPABILITIES ARE AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY.
SUCCESS OR FAILURE IS NOW A FIFTY-FIFTY PROPOSITION.
THIS IS A GOLDEN OPPORTU-NITY TO NAB THE AMBS.
ETHEROW IS NOW OUR SOLE ENEMY.

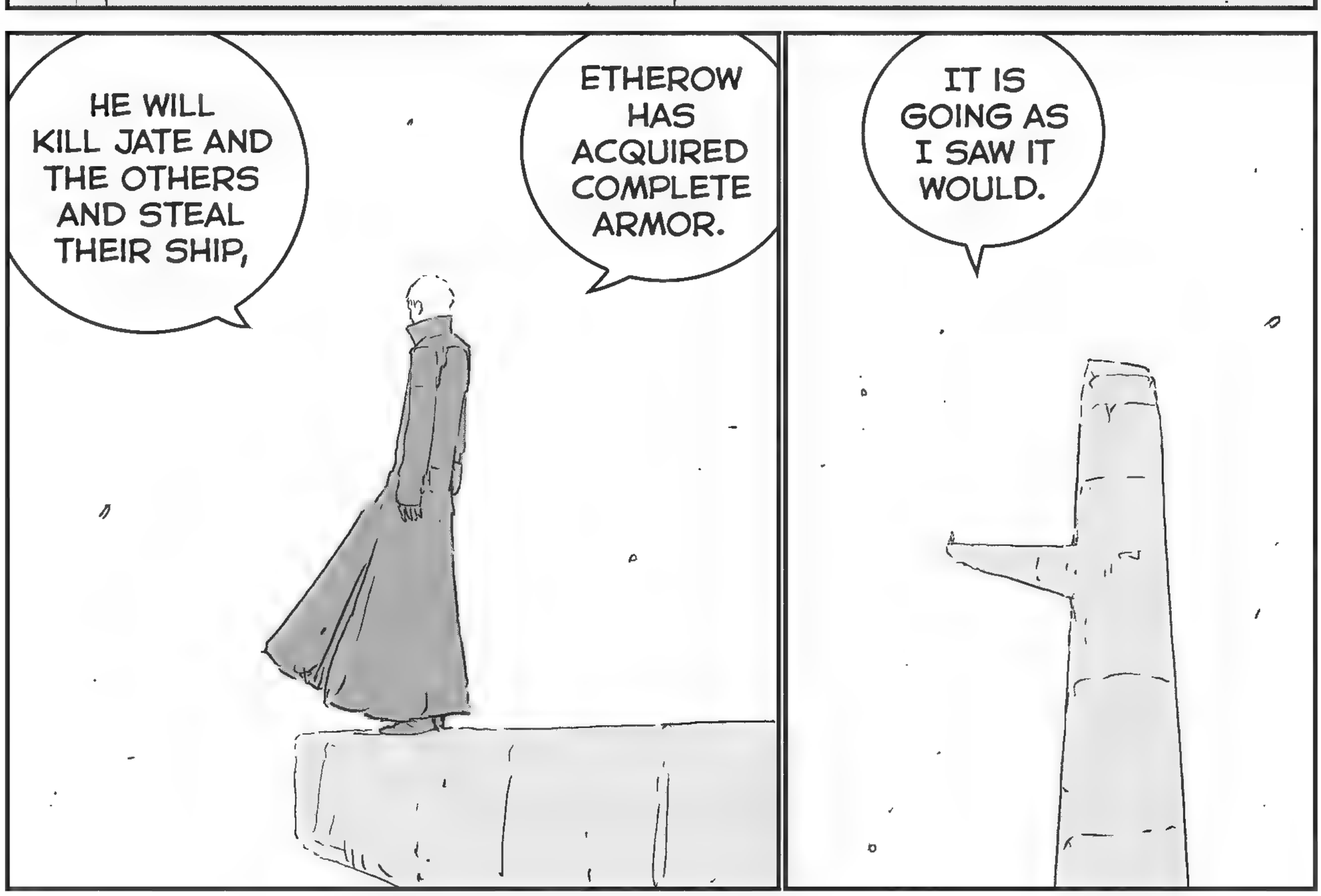
ON JATE'S SHIP, THERE ARE A GREAT NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND CIVILIANS FROM BACK THEN.
ETHEROW.

EVEN IF WE GOT THE AMBS, WOULD THAT REALLY BE ENOUGH?
AND IS IT SAFE TO TRUST HIS MAJESTY?




THE HEART OF THE EMPIRE




HE WILL KILL JATE AND THE OTHERS AND STEAL THEIR SHIP,
ETHEROW HAS ACQUIRED COMPLETE ARMOR.
IT IS GOING AS I SAW IT WOULD.

AND THEN HE WILL COME HERE.

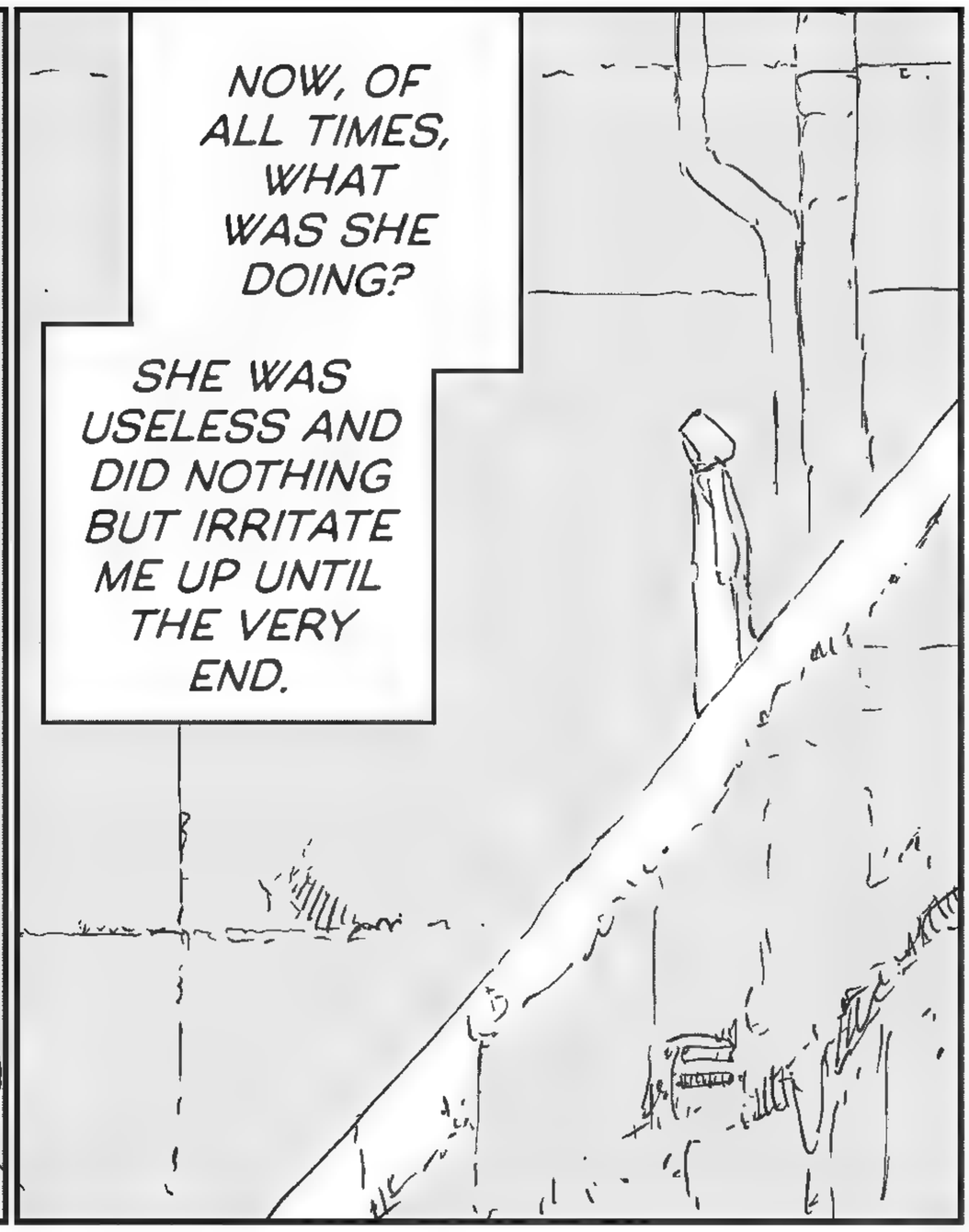
SOME DEGREE OF DEVIATION IS TO BE EXPECTED. WE WILL COURSE CORRECT AND RETURN TO THE OPTIMAL LINE.

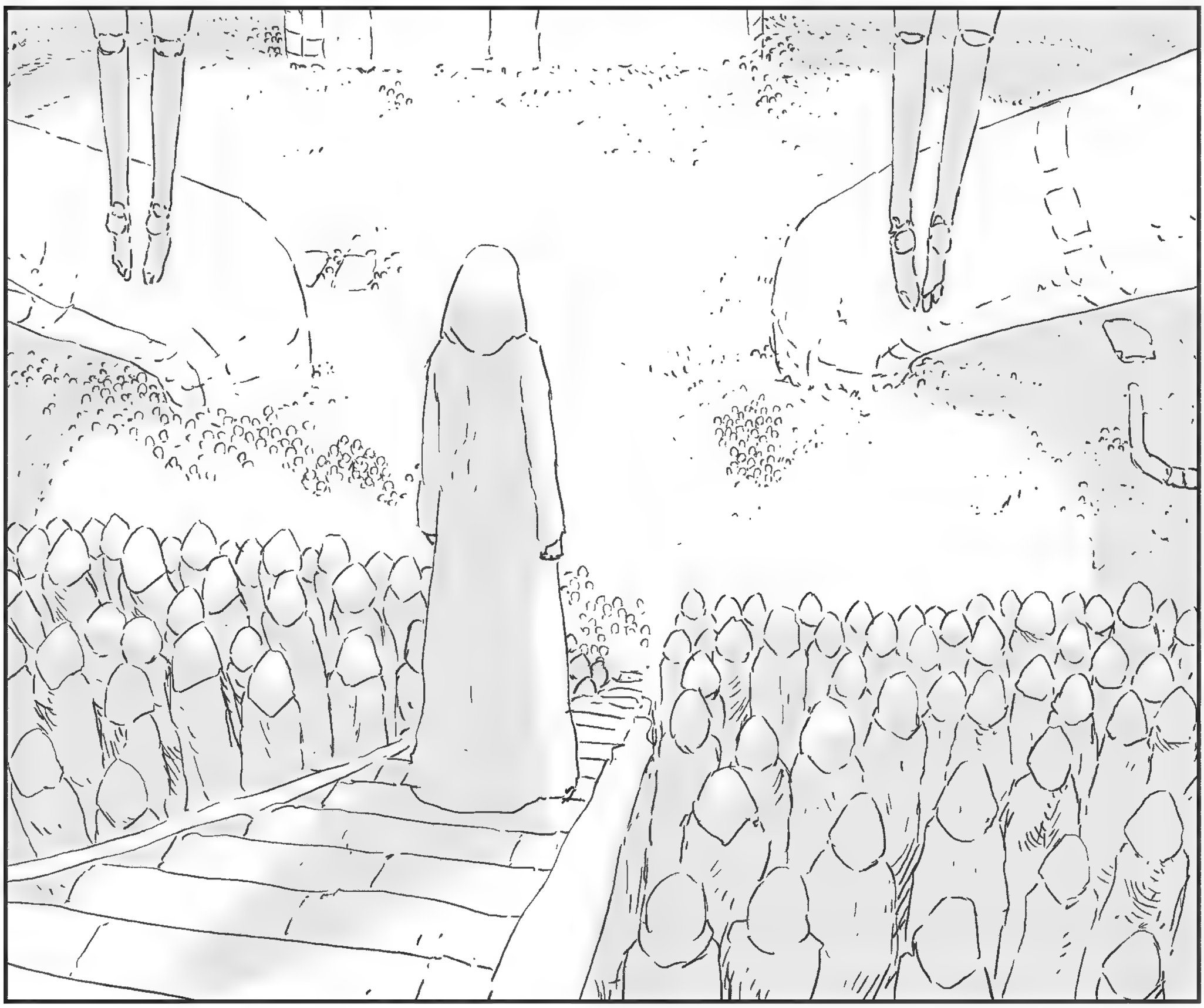
WE HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH PLACENTA FOR IT.

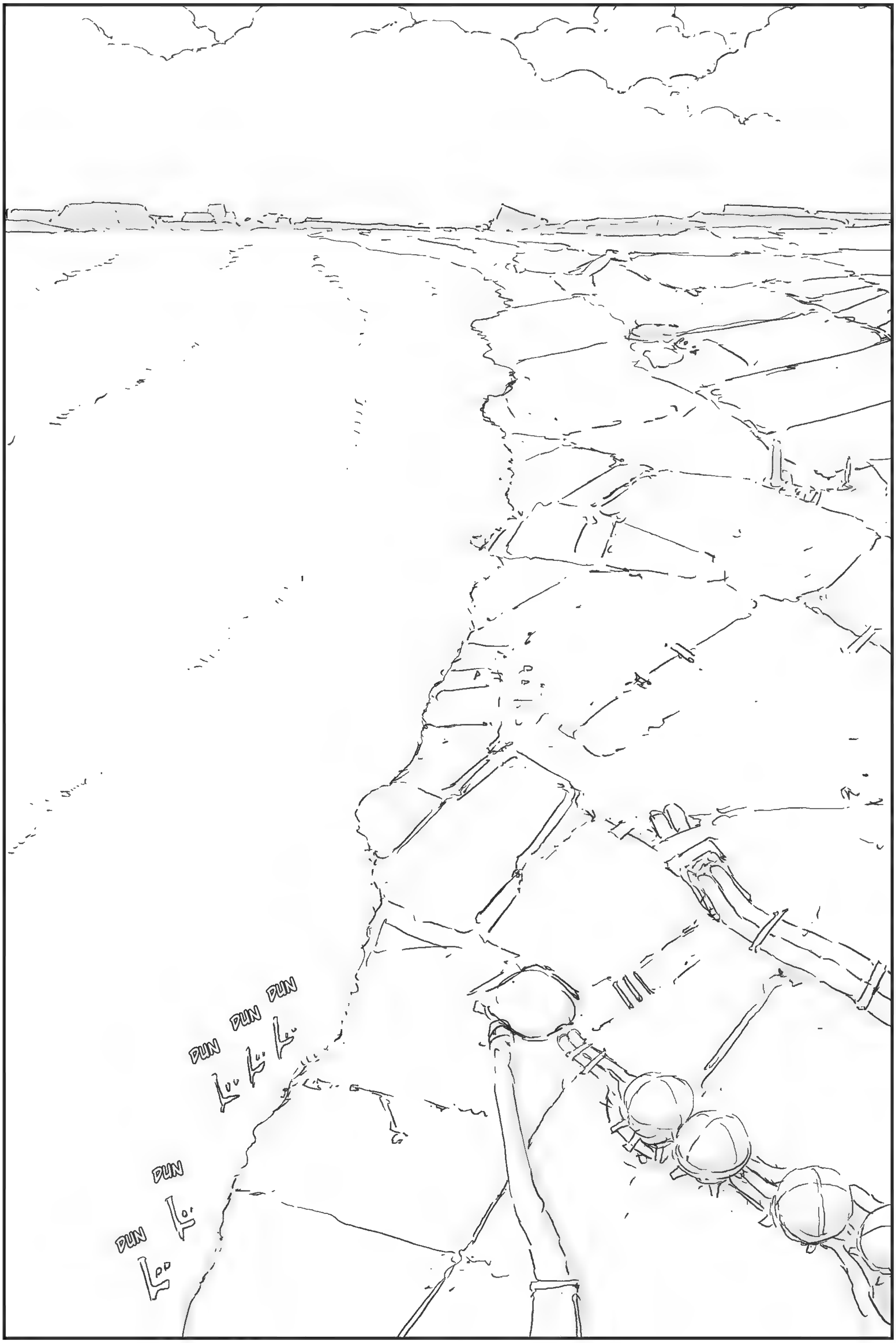
HE HAS USED AN AMB, BUT NO GREAT CHANGE HAS OCCURRED TO THE FUTURE.

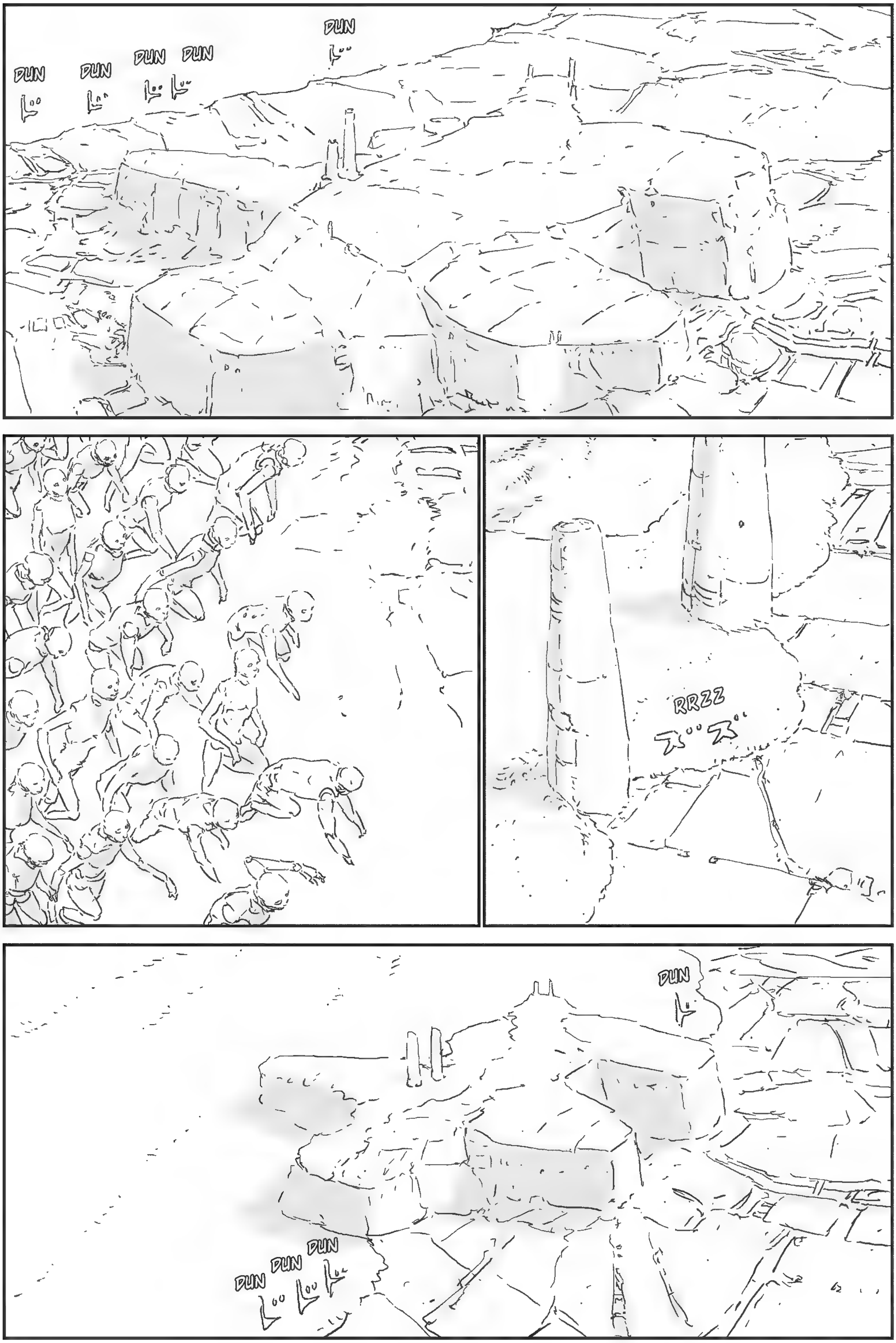
KEISHA
IS DEAD.

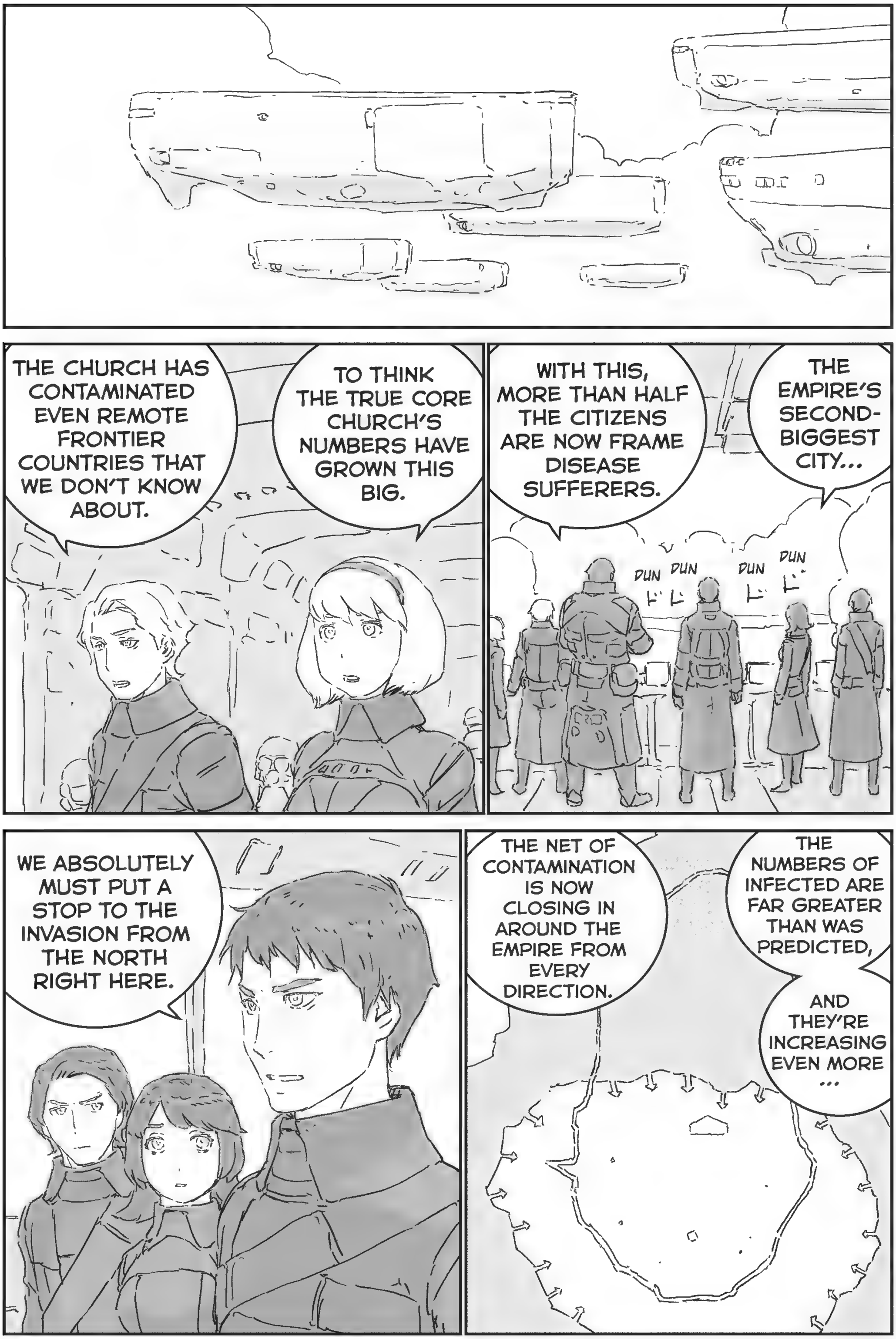
WHERE YOU CAN WATCH WHAT I DO NEXT.
MAY YOU SINK TO THE VERY DEPTHS OF HELL


NOW, OF ALL TIMES, WHAT WAS SHE DOING?
SHE WAS USELESS AND DID NOTHING BUT IRRITATE ME UP UNTIL THE VERY END.

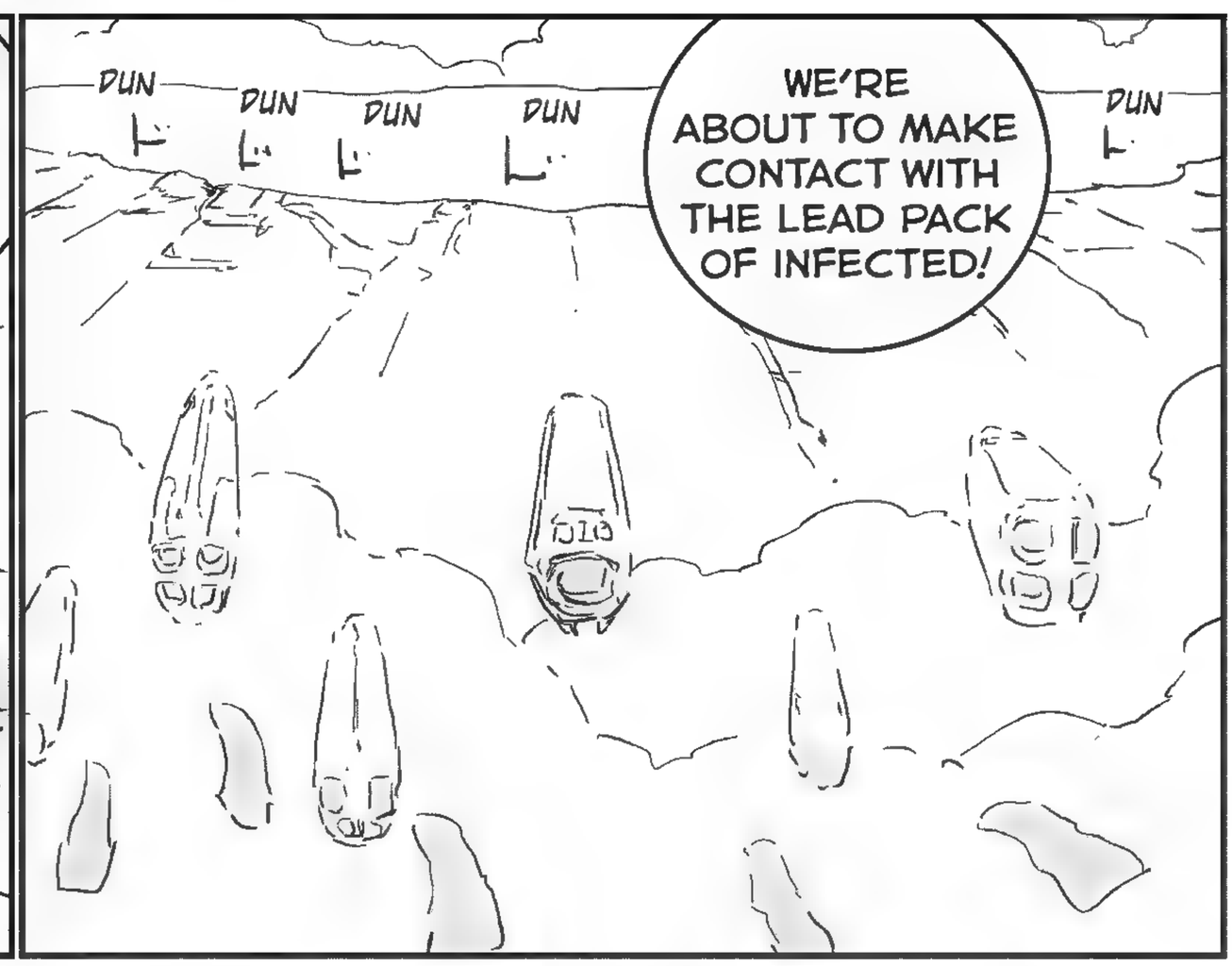


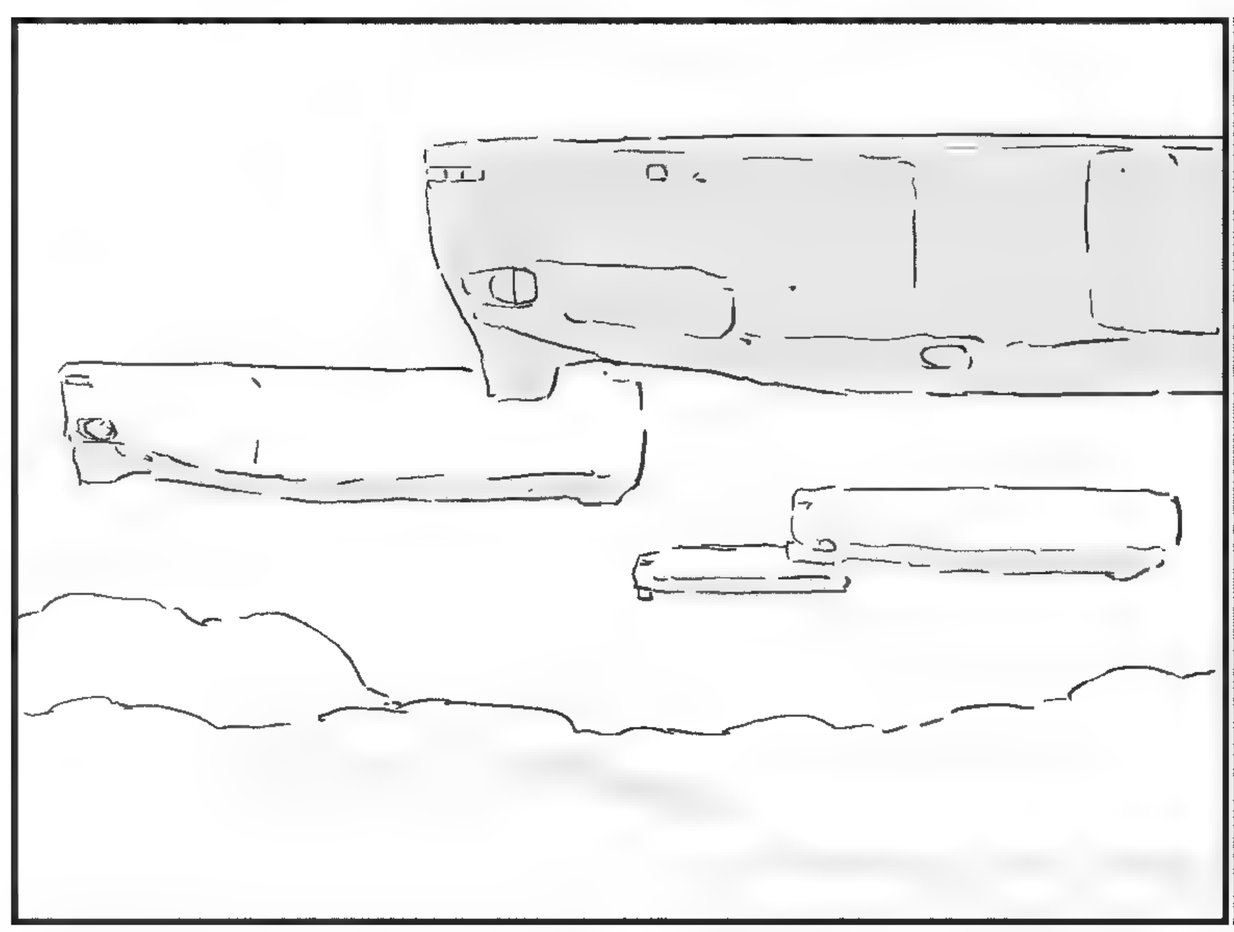

DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN


DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
RRZZ
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN

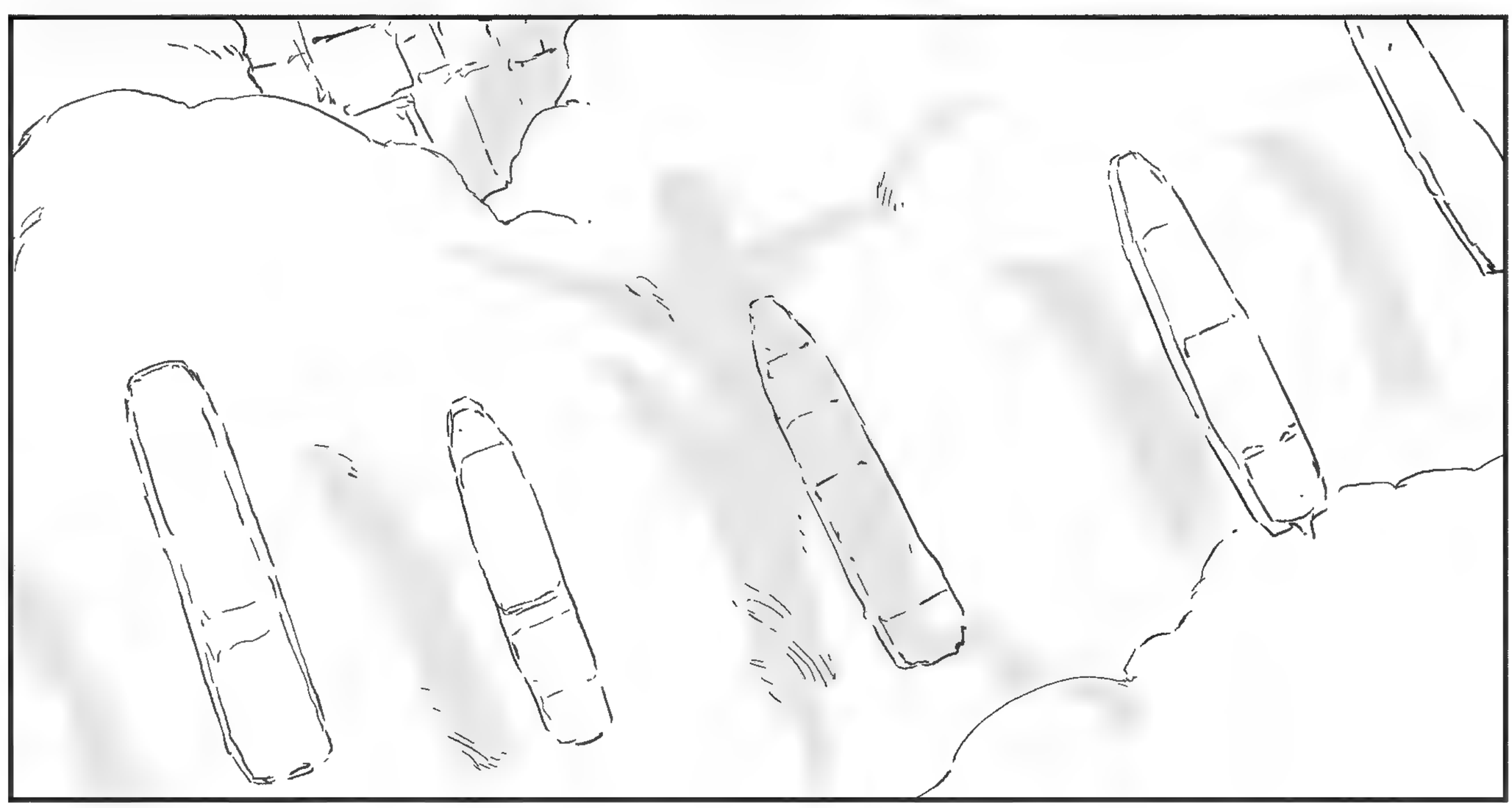

THE CHURCH HAS CONTAMINATED EVEN REMOTE FRONTIER COUNTRIES THAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT.
TO THINK THE TRUE CORE CHURCH'S NUMBERS HAVE GROWN THIS BIG.
WITH THIS, MORE THAN HALF THE CITIZENS ARE NOW FRAME DISEASE SUFFERERS.
THE EMPIRE'S SECOND-BIGGEST CITY...
DUN DUN DUN DUN
WE ABSOLUTELY MUST PUT A STOP TO THE INVASION FROM THE NORTH RIGHT HERE.
THE NET OF CONTAMINATION IS NOW CLOSING IN AROUND THE EMPIRE FROM EVERY DIRECTION.
THE NUMBERS OF INFECTED ARE FAR GREATER THAN WAS PREDICTED,
AND THEY'RE INCREASING EVEN MORE ...

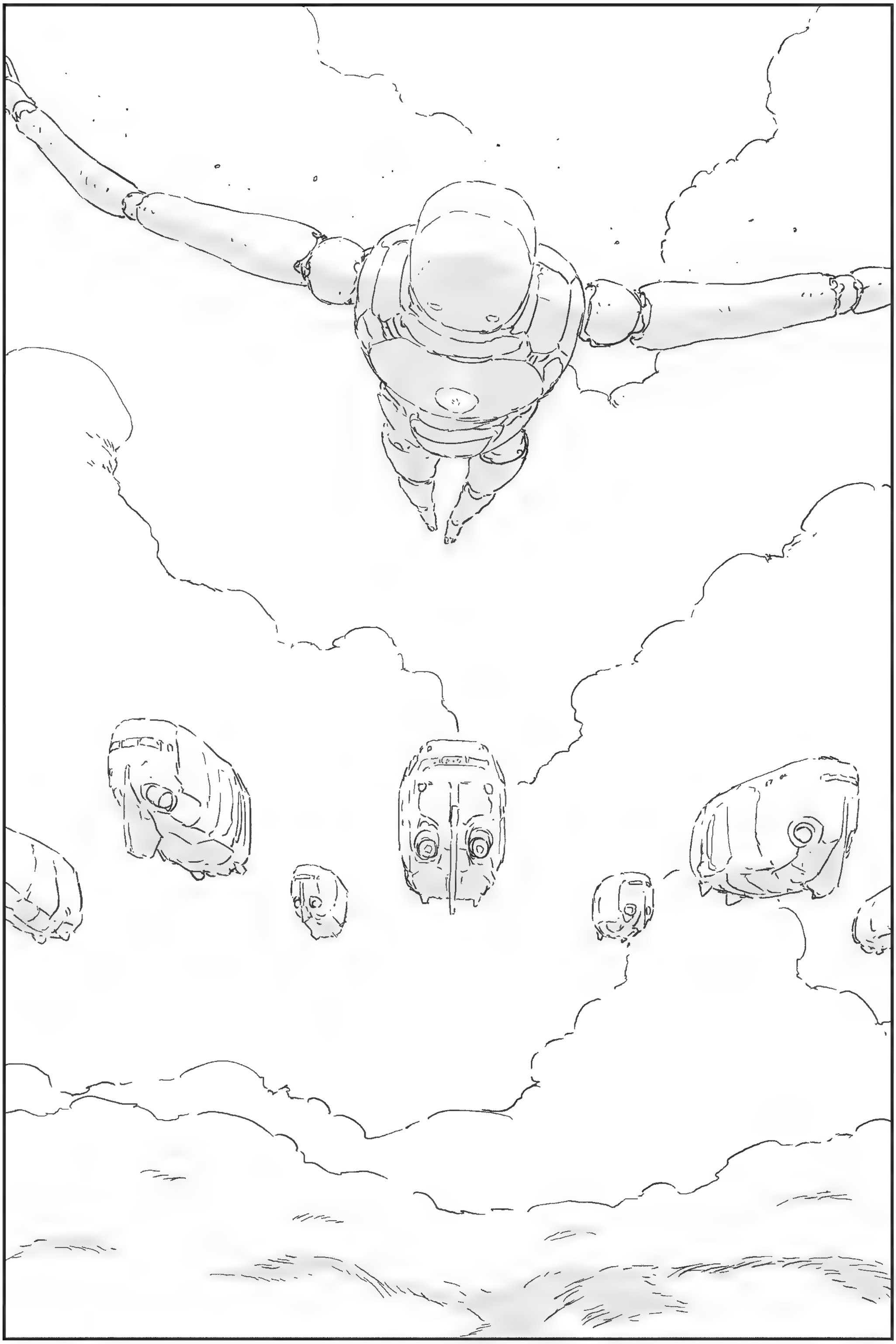
FIREBALL MISSILES READY TO LAUNCH!
ALL SHIPS PREPARE TO FIRE!
KUNG

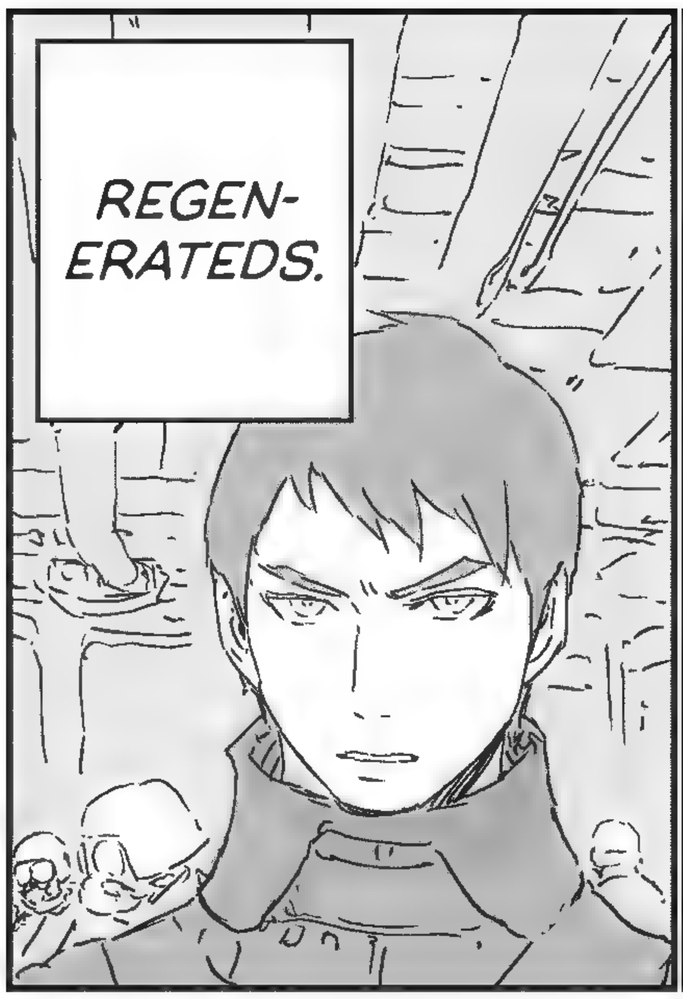

DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
WE'RE ABOUT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE LEAD PACK OF INFECTED!

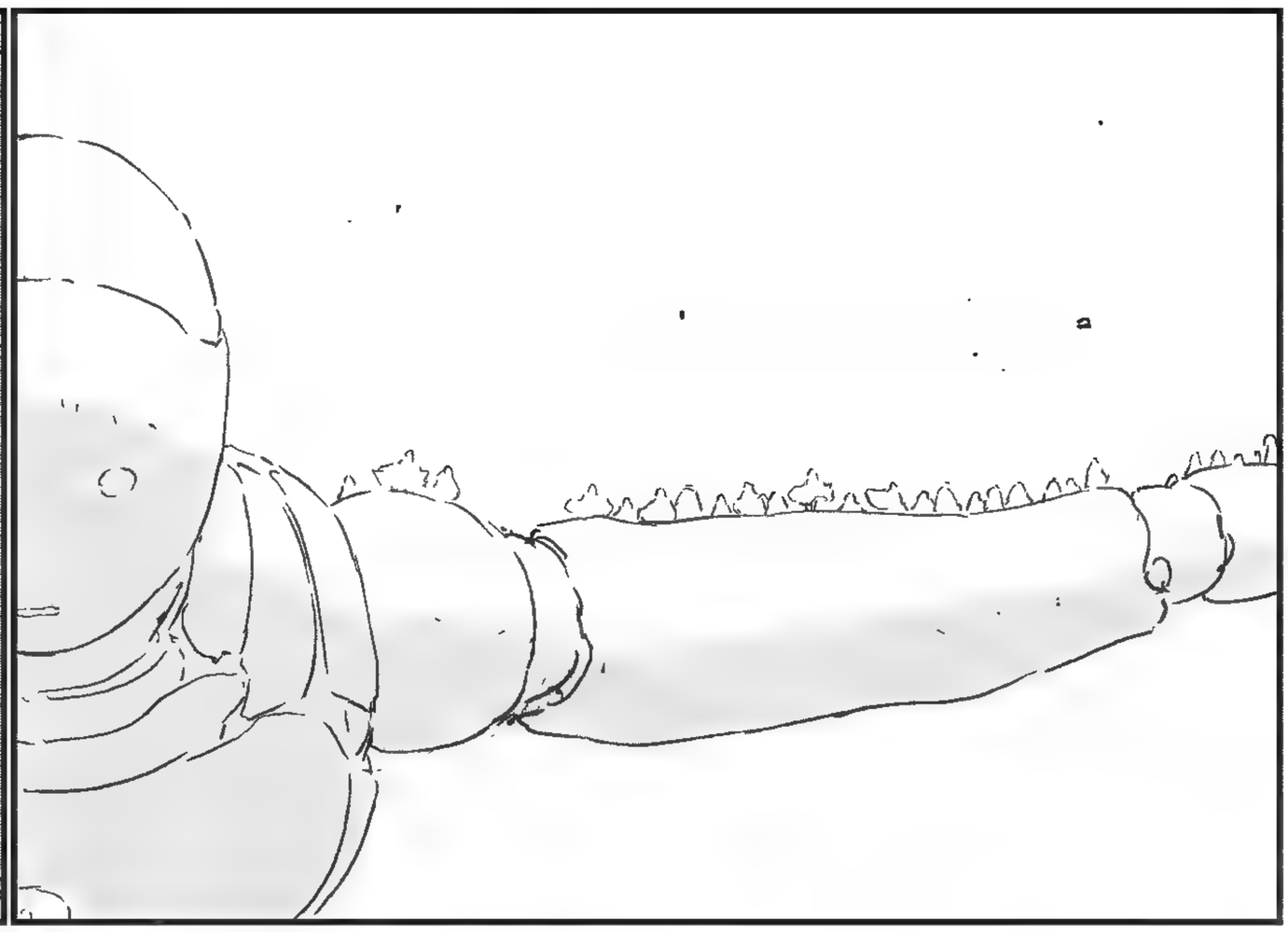


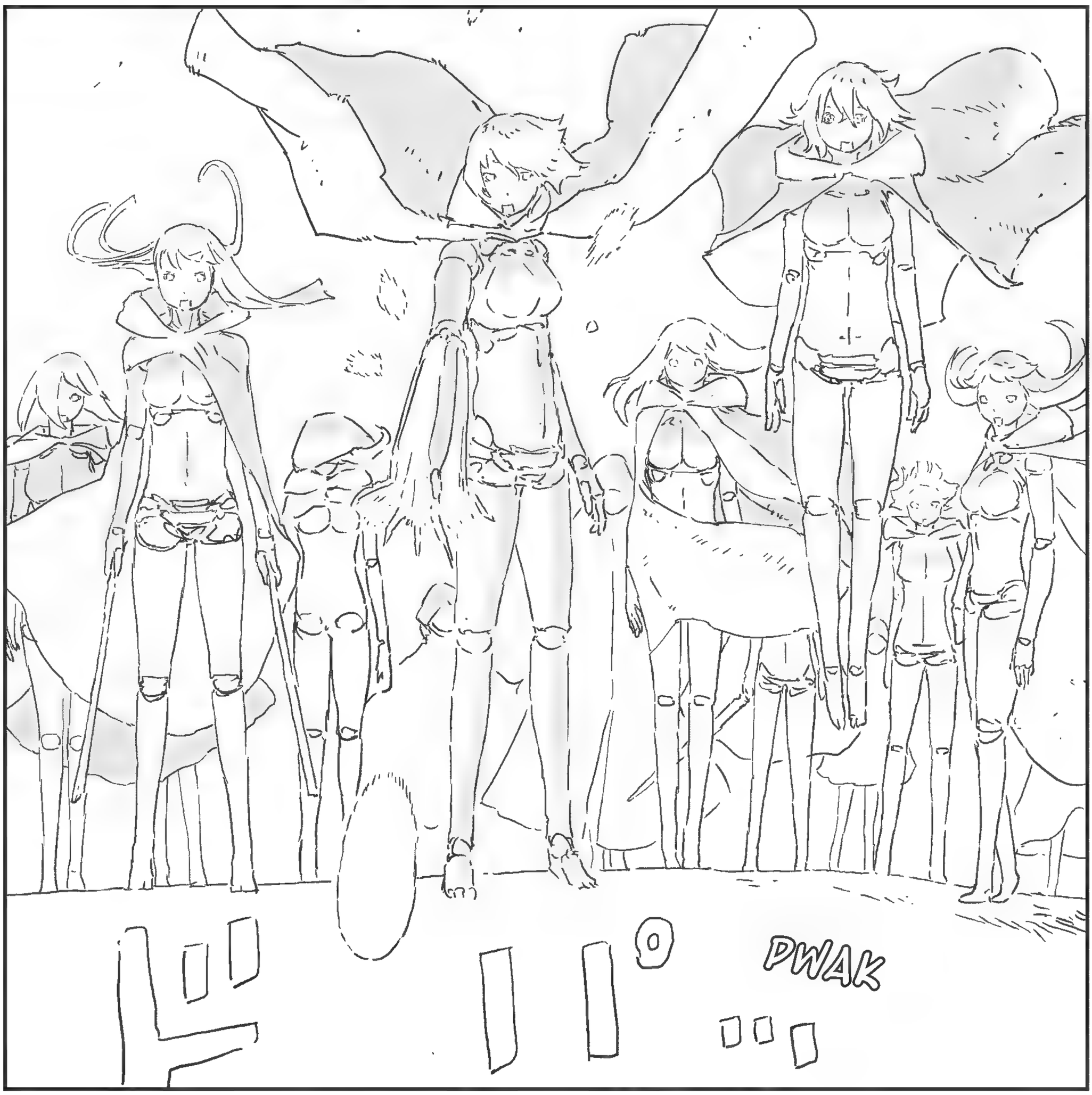
GENERAL KUDOH, PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT!

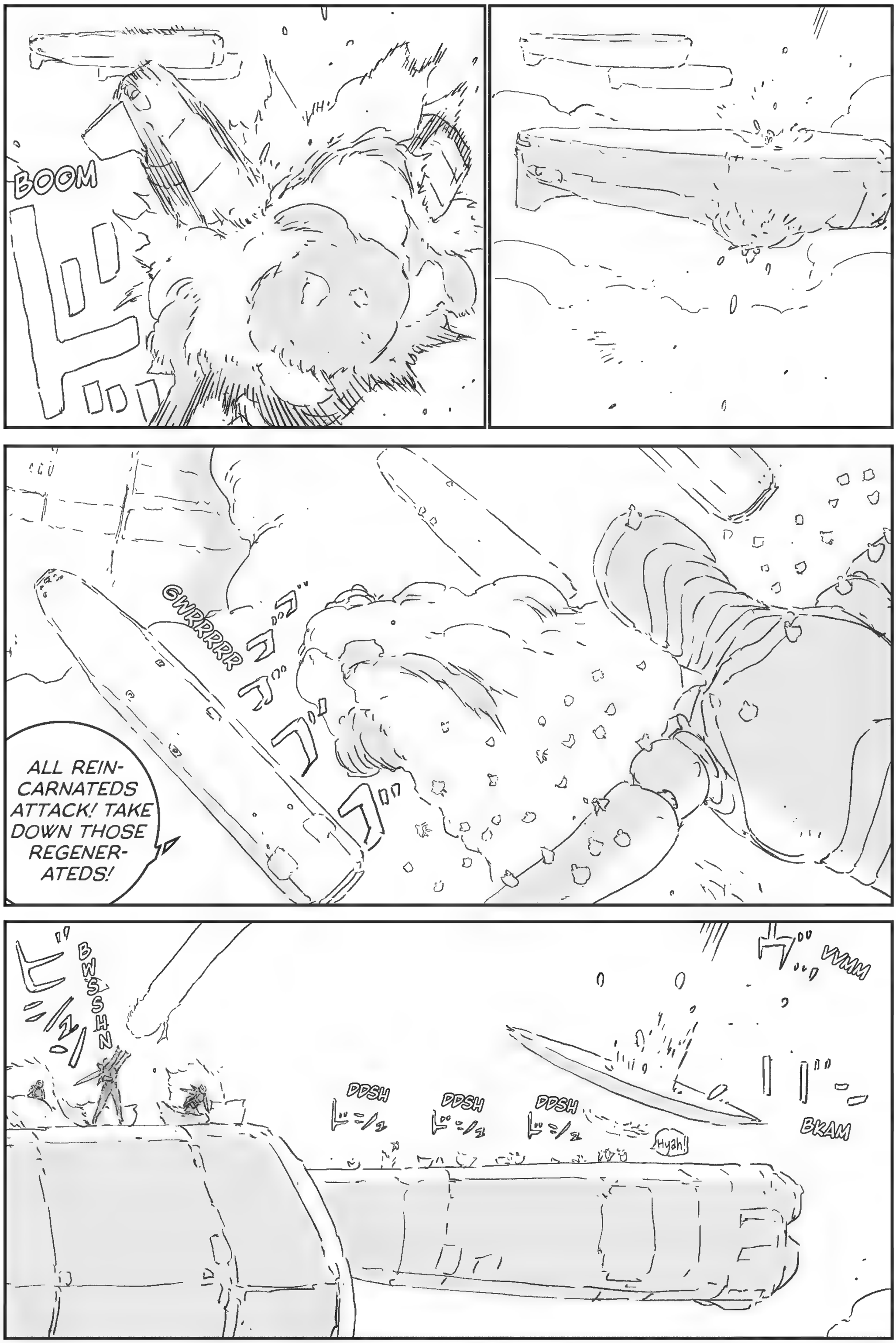




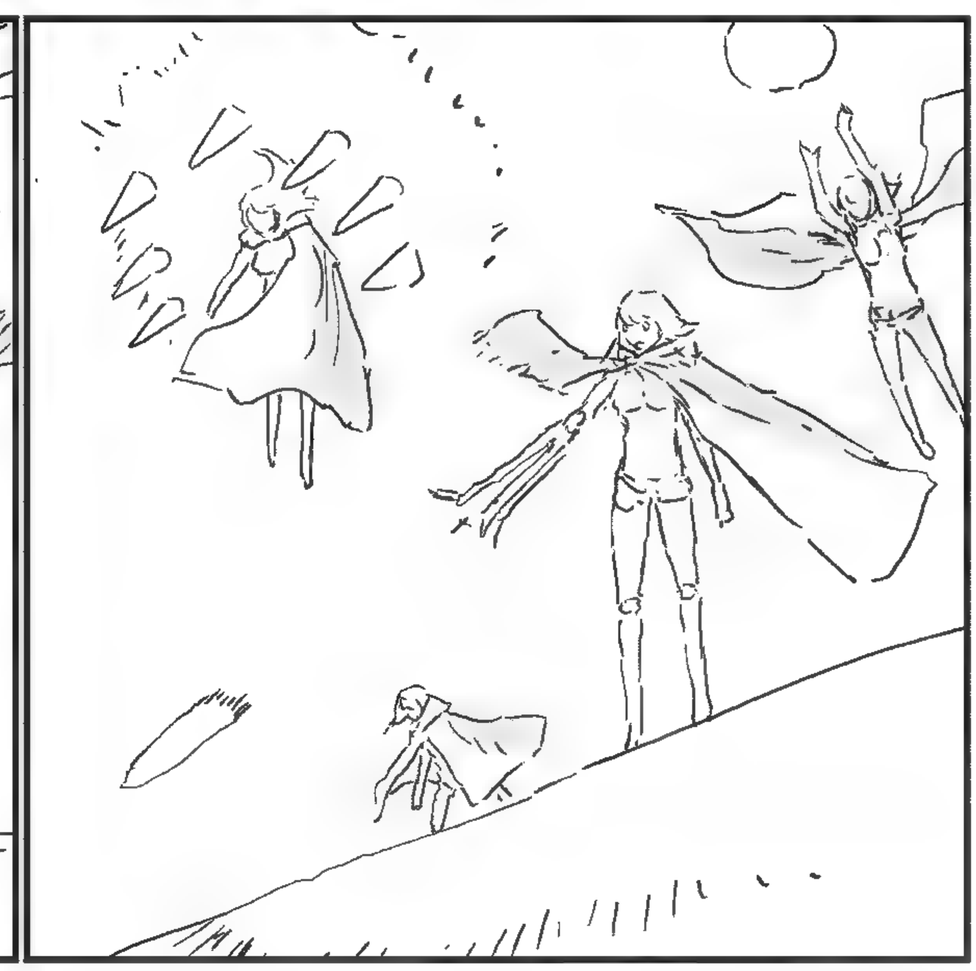

REGEN-
ERATEDS.



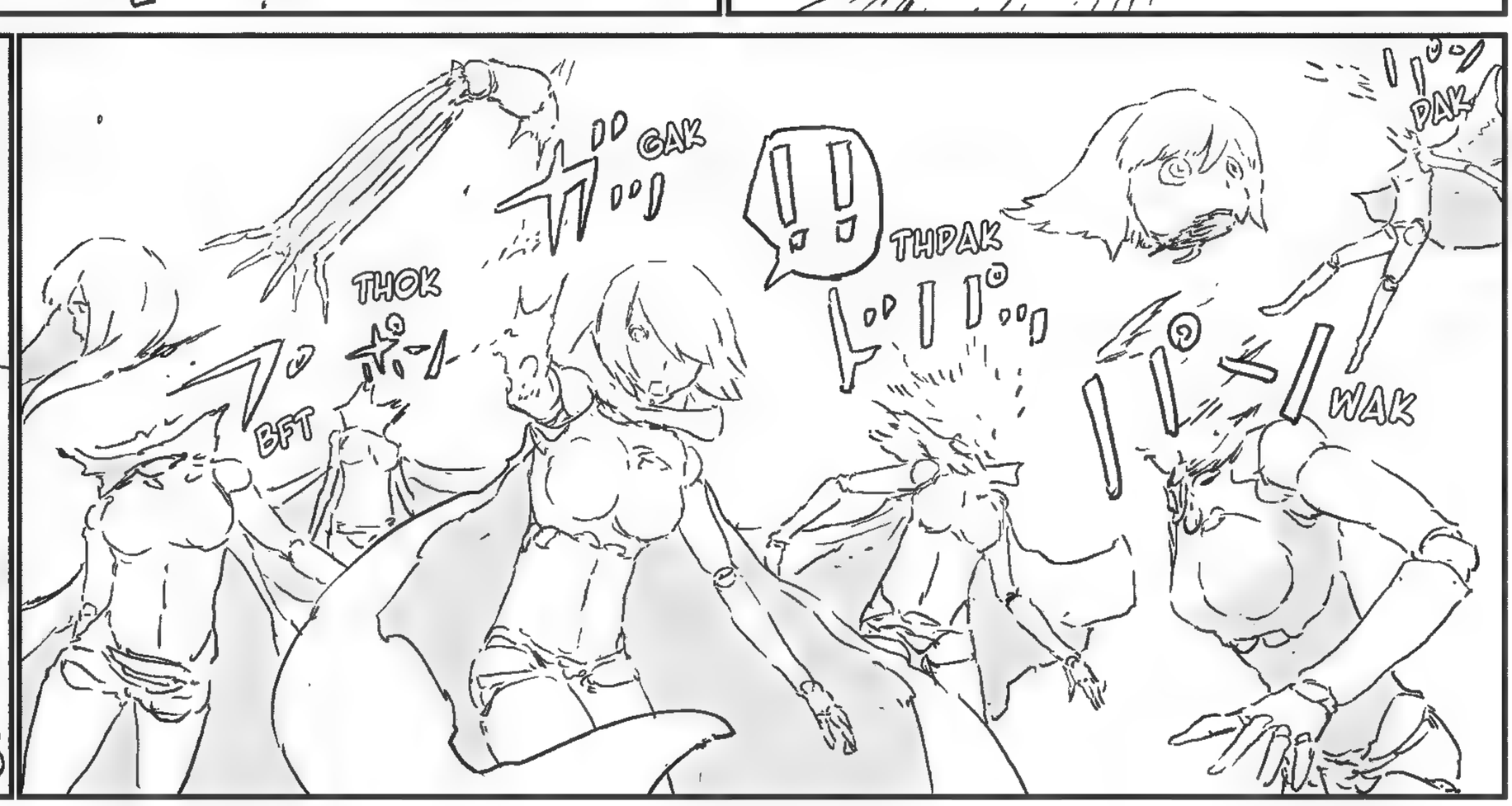

PWAK

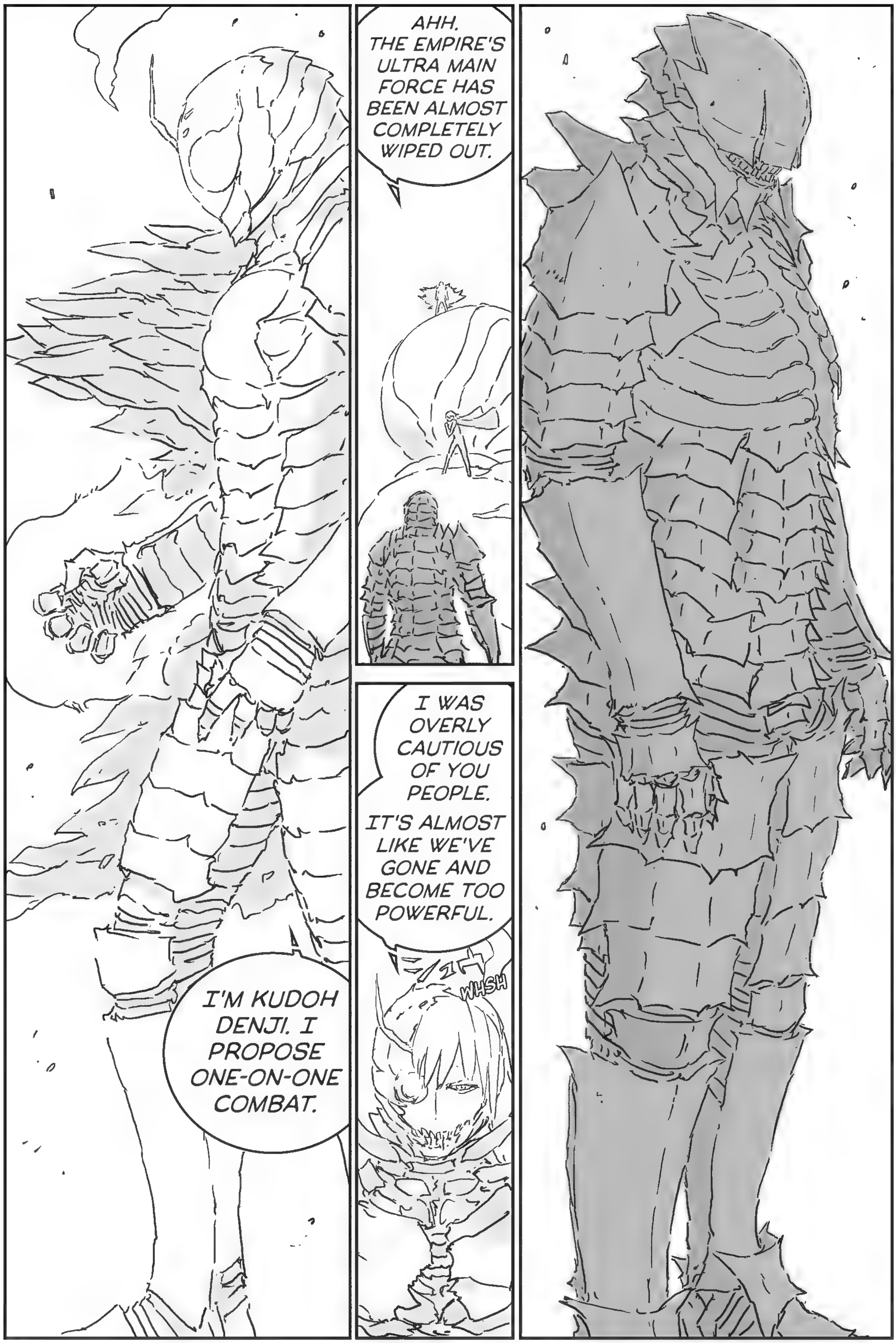

BOOM
GWRRRRR
ALL REIN-CARNATEDS ATTACK! TAKE DOWN THOSE REGENER-ATEDS!
BWSSHN
DDSH
DDSH
DDSH
Hyah!!
BKAM

KROOM!
POW



PAH

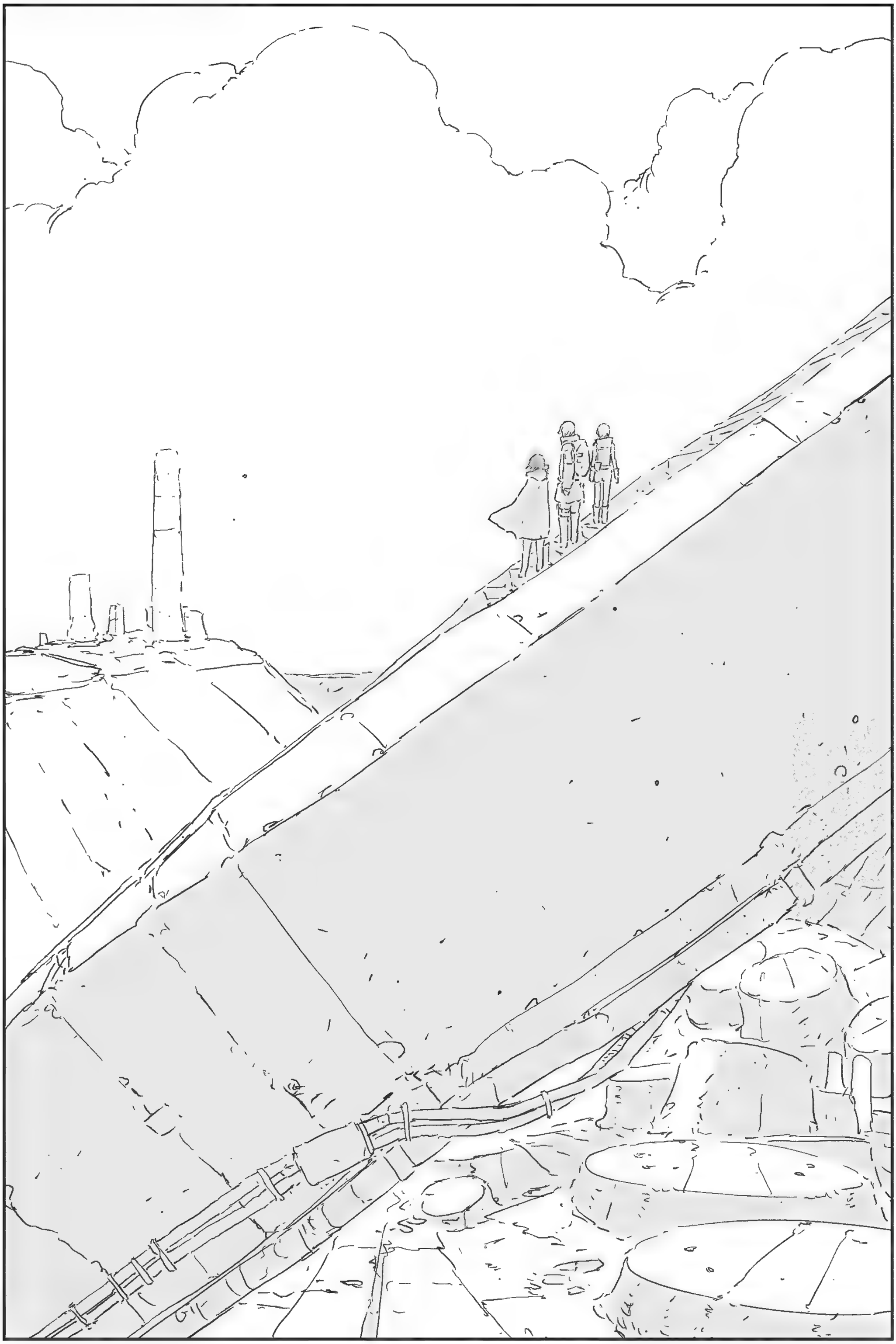

GAK
THOK
BFT
!!
THPAK
DAK
WAK

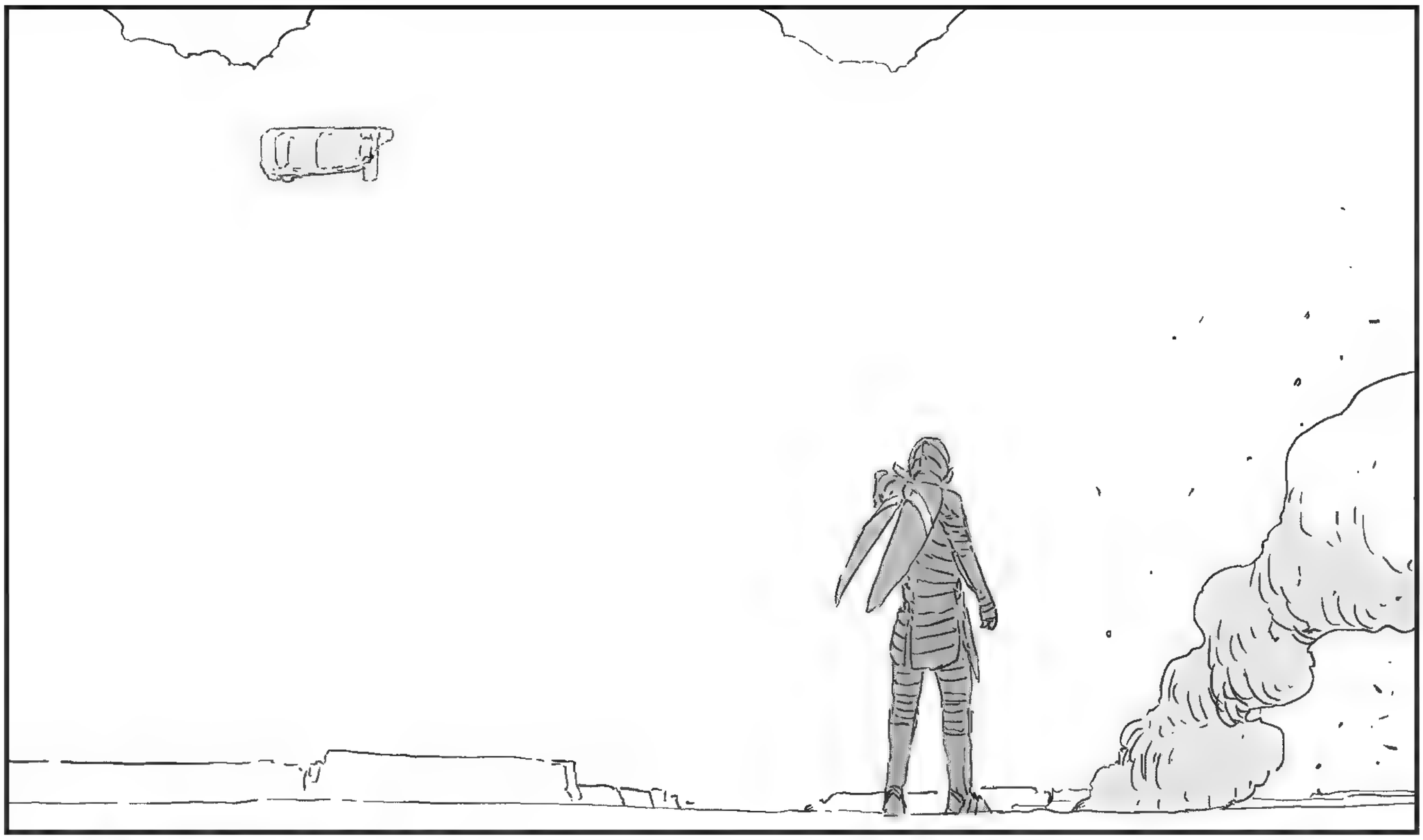


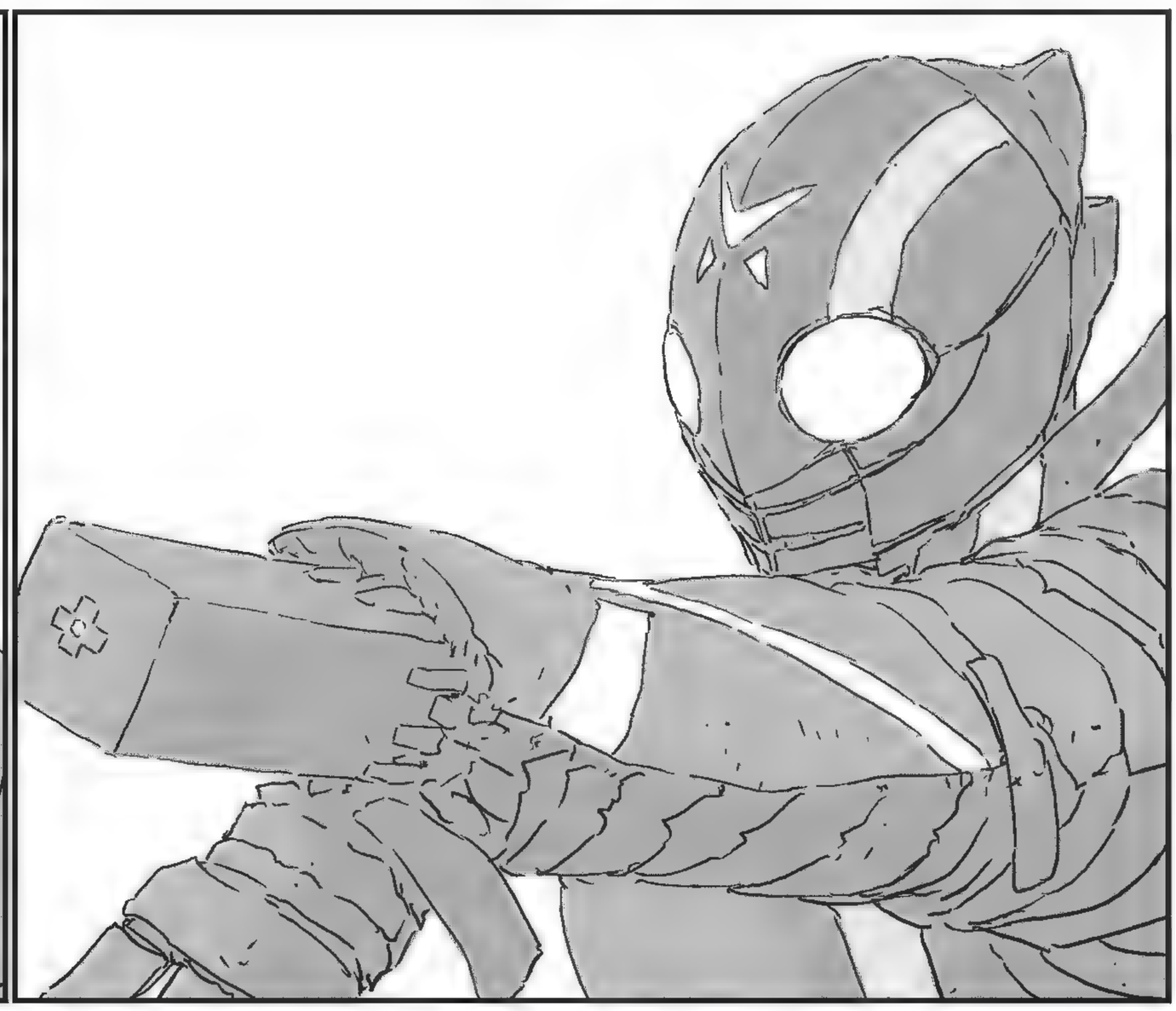
CHAPTER 51 END

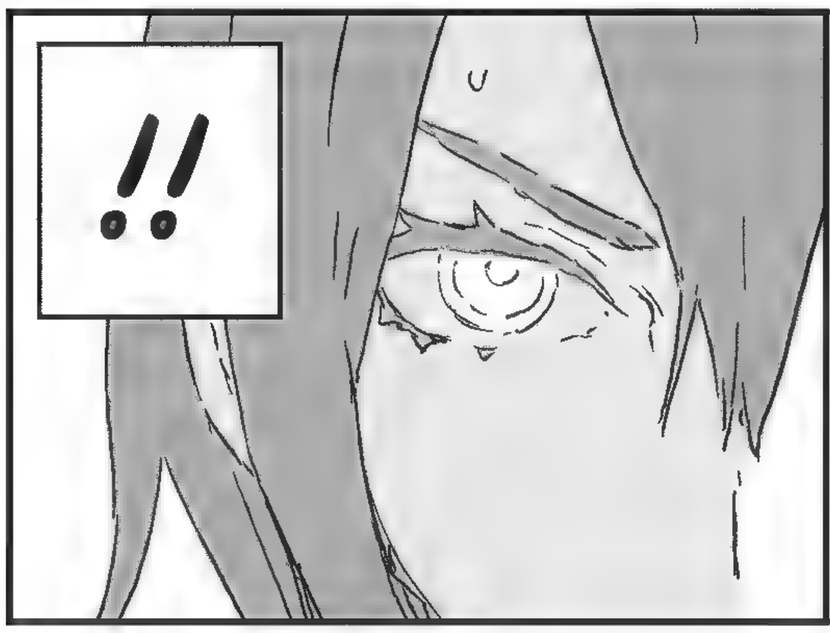
APOSIMZ

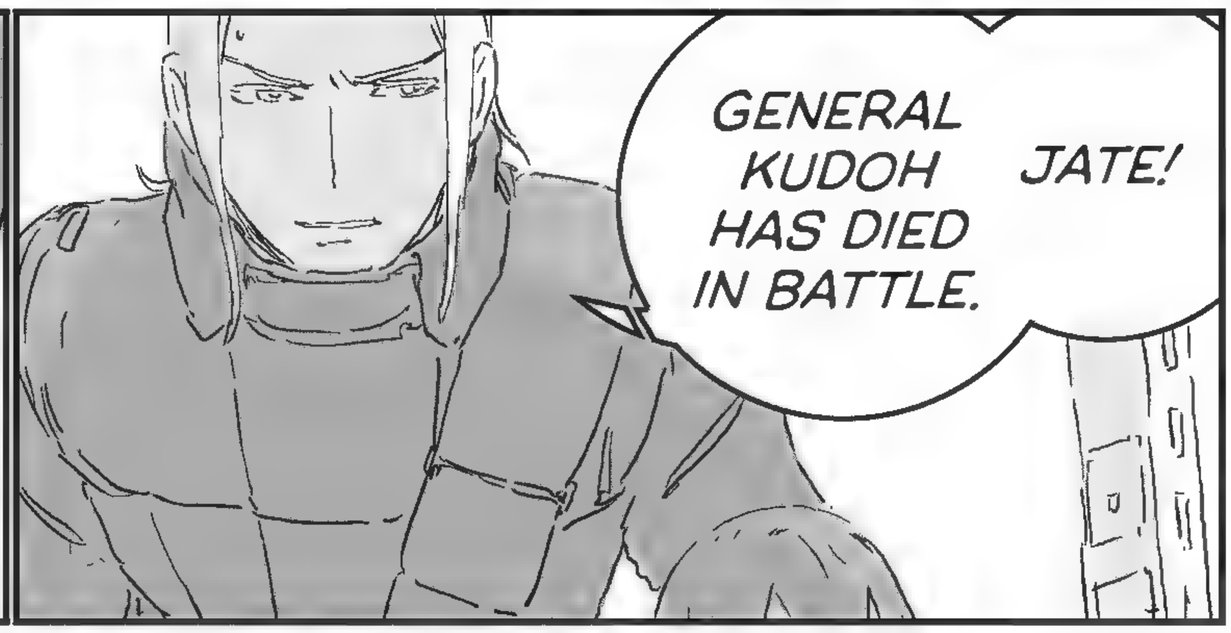
CHAPTER 52

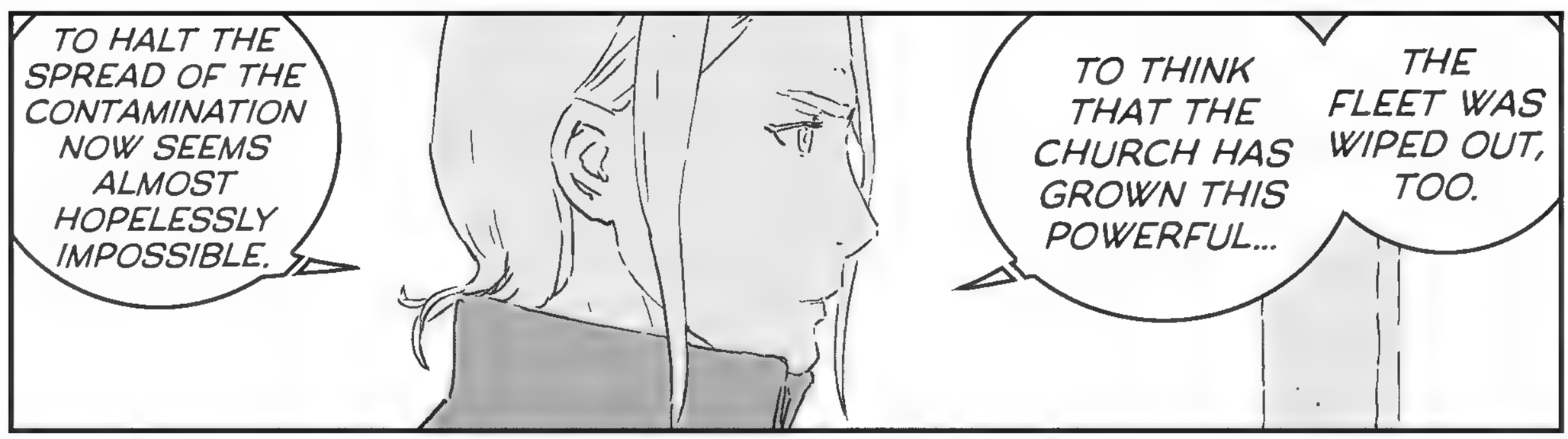






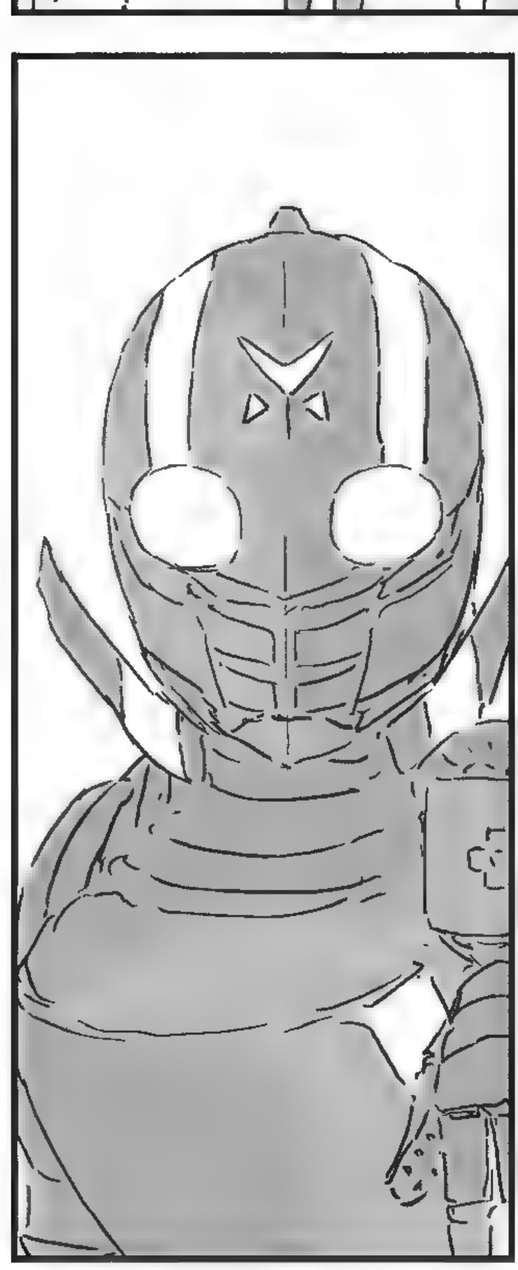

!!

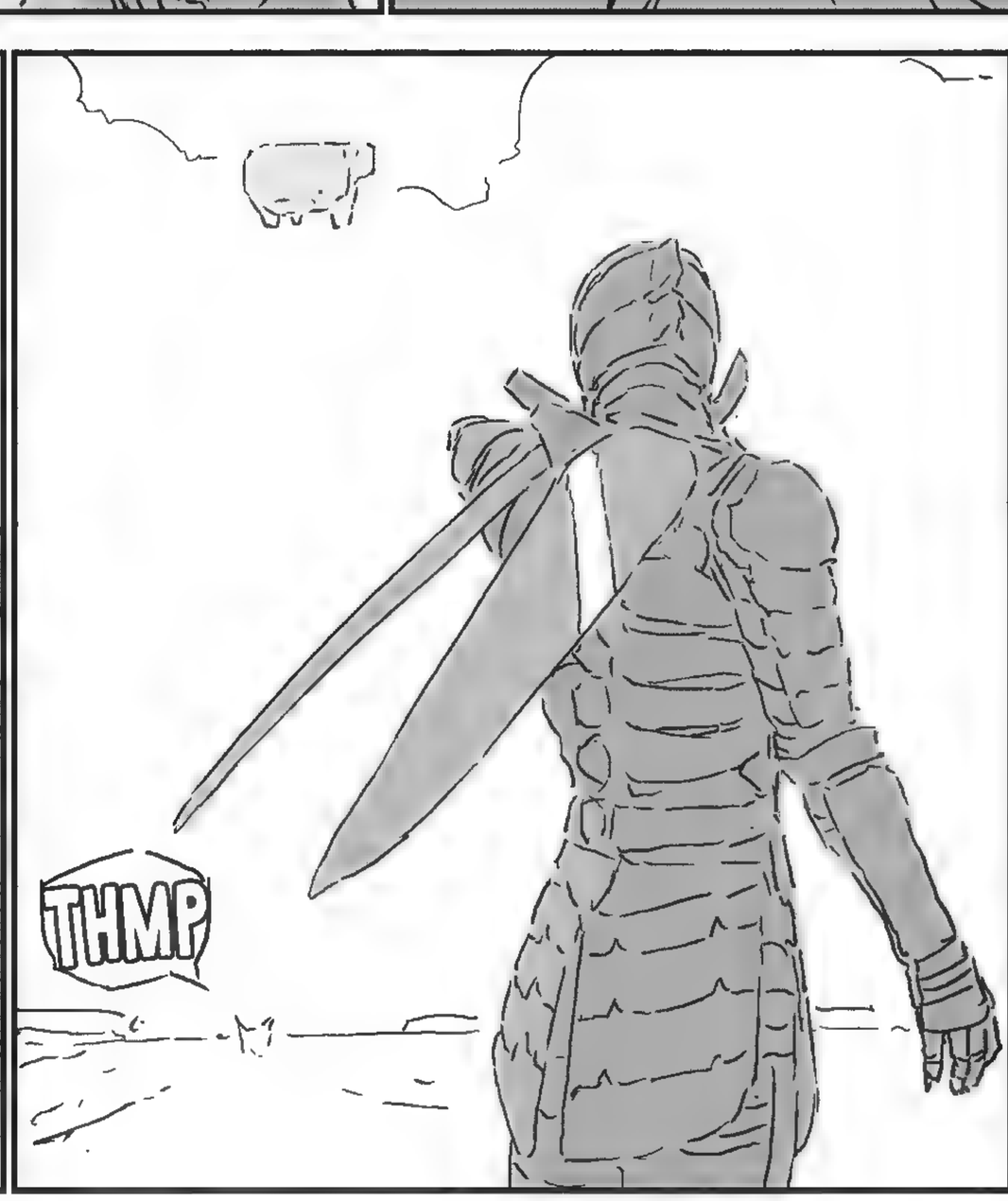

GENERAL KUDOH HAS DIED IN BATTLE.
JATE!


TO HALT THE SPREAD OF THE CONTAMINATION NOW SEEMS ALMOST HOPELESSLY IMPOSSIBLE.
TO THINK THAT THE CHURCH HAS GROWN THIS POWERFUL...
THE FLEET WAS WIPED OUT, TOO.

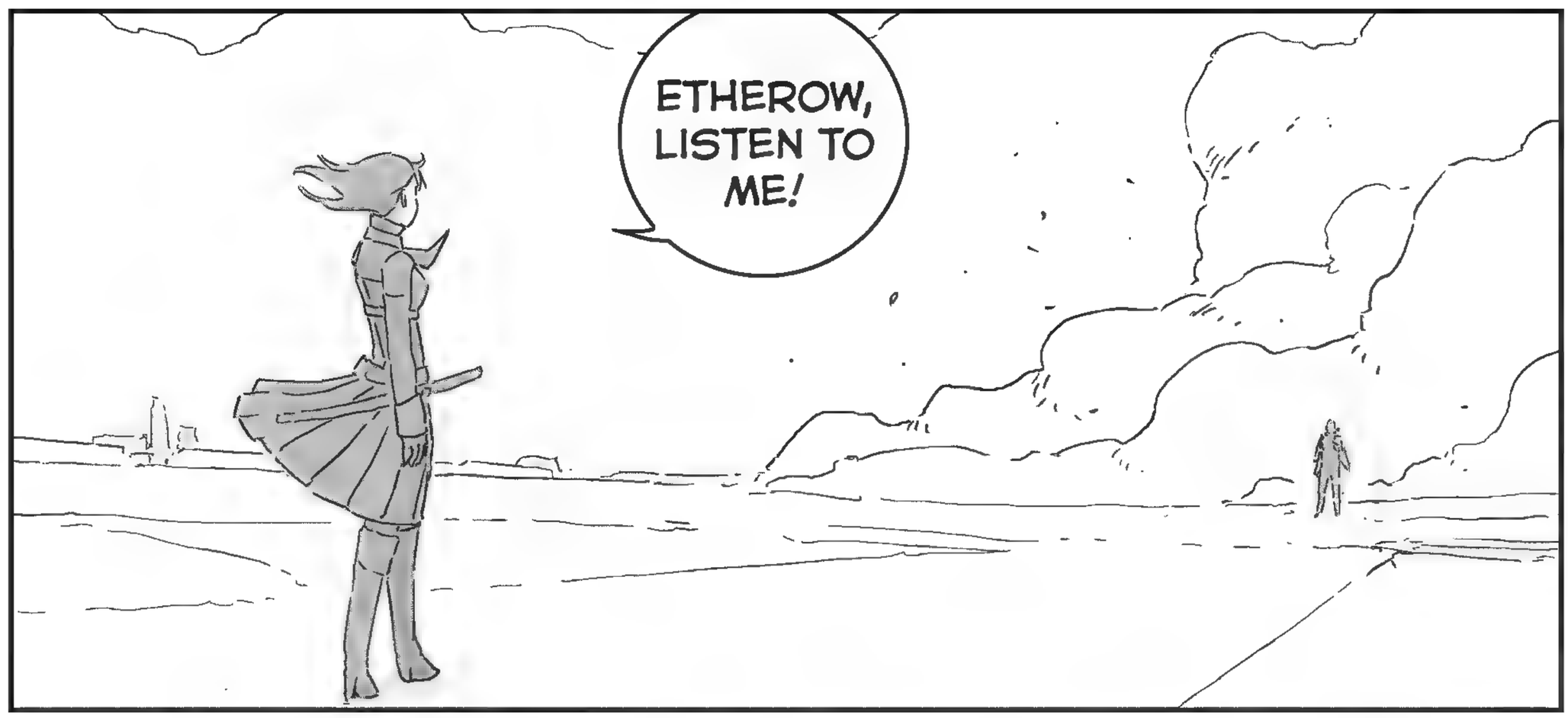
JATE?!
DON'T FOLLOW ME!

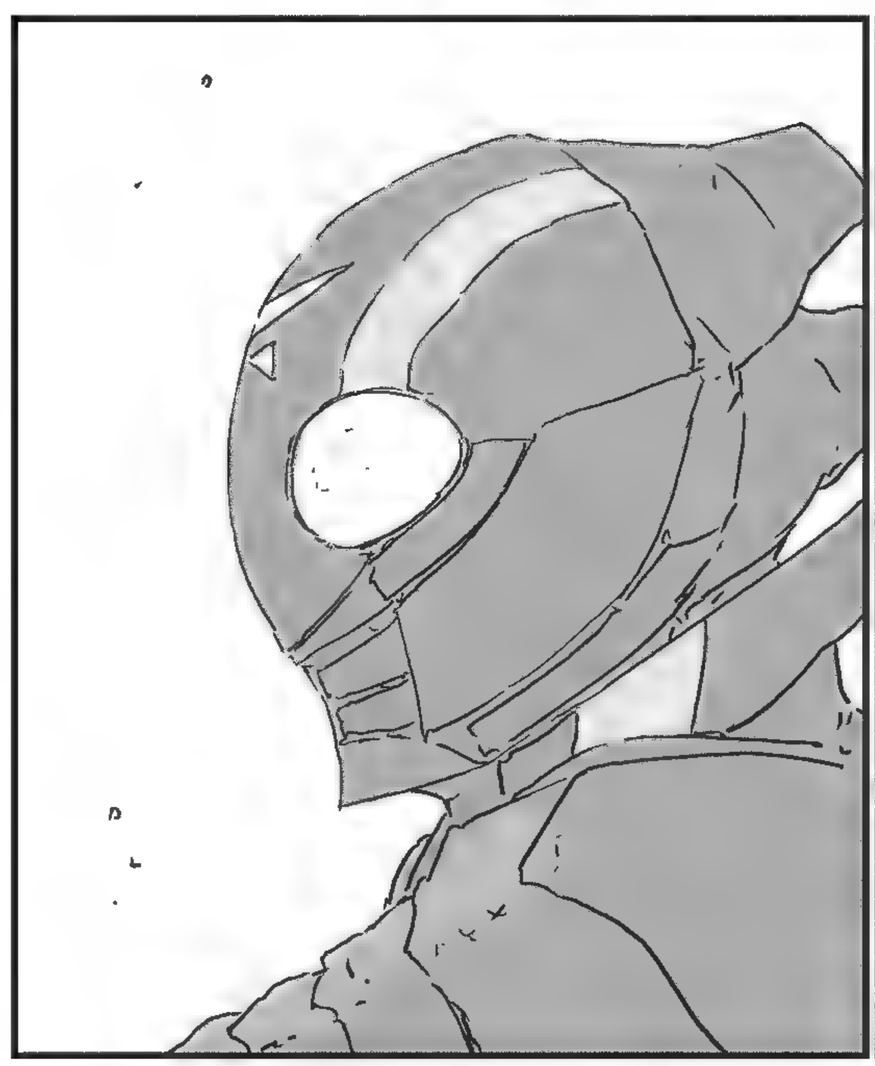
WE MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SAVE THE PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF THE EMPIRE.




THMP

WHP

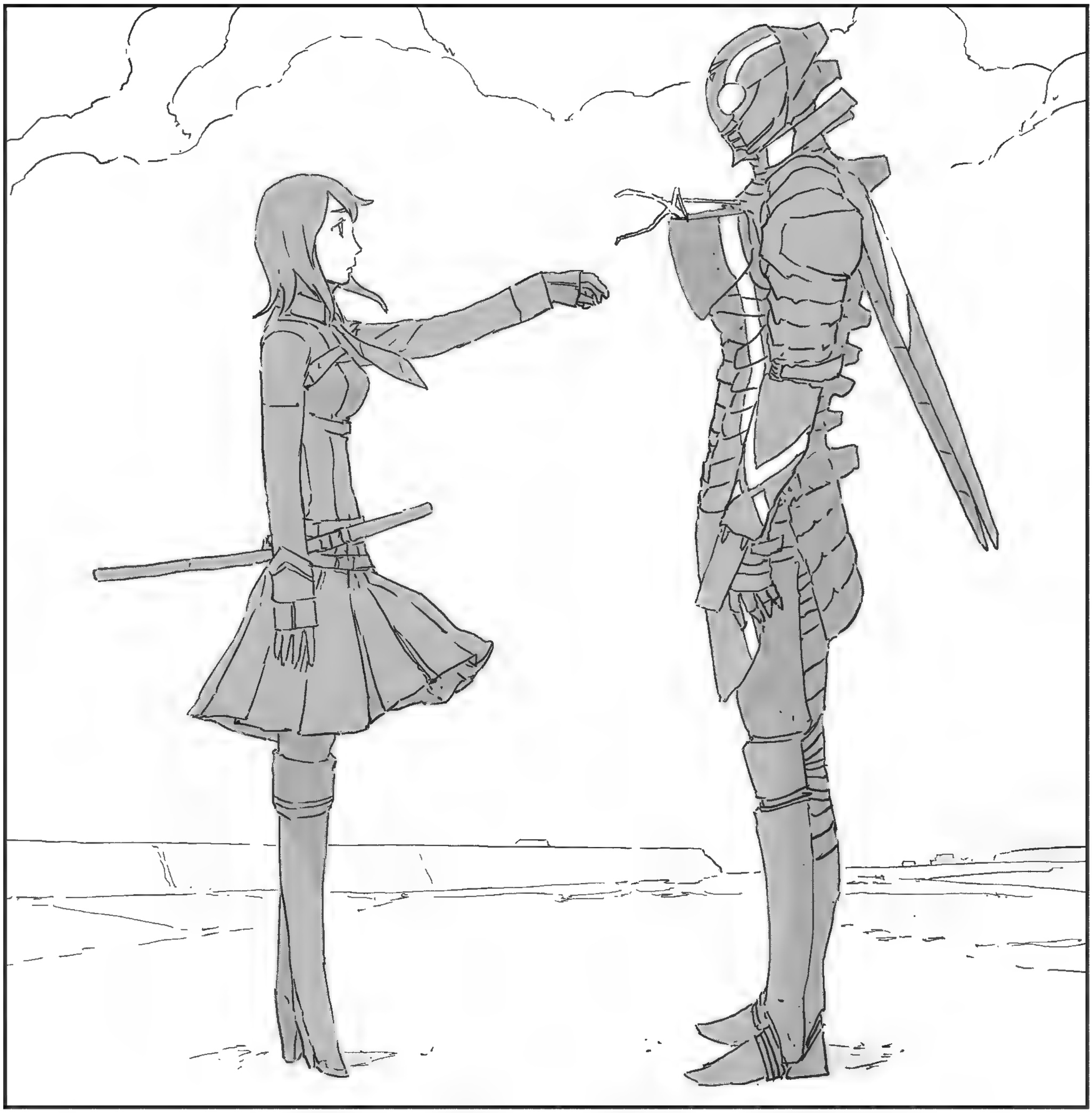

ETHEROW, LISTEN TO ME!

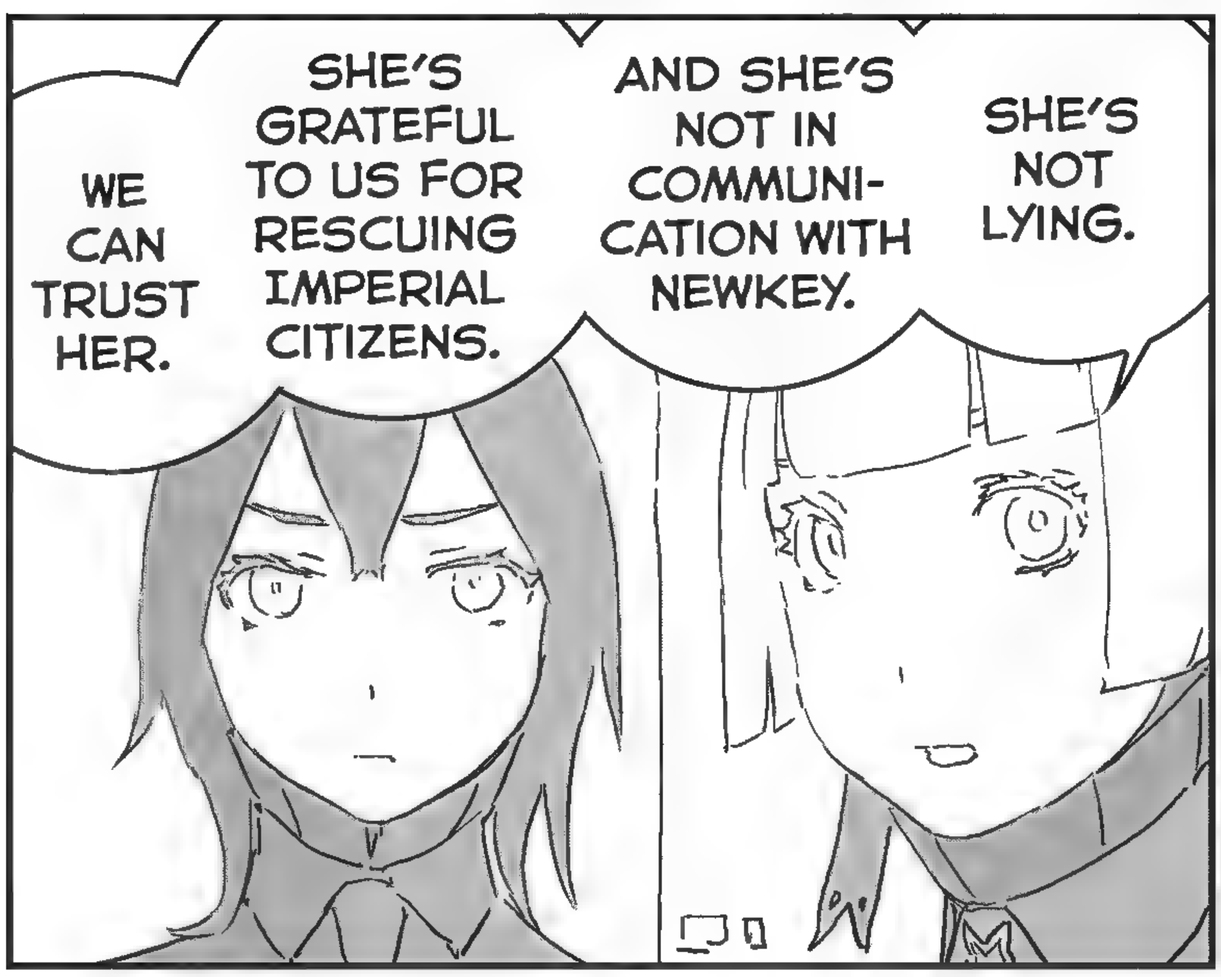


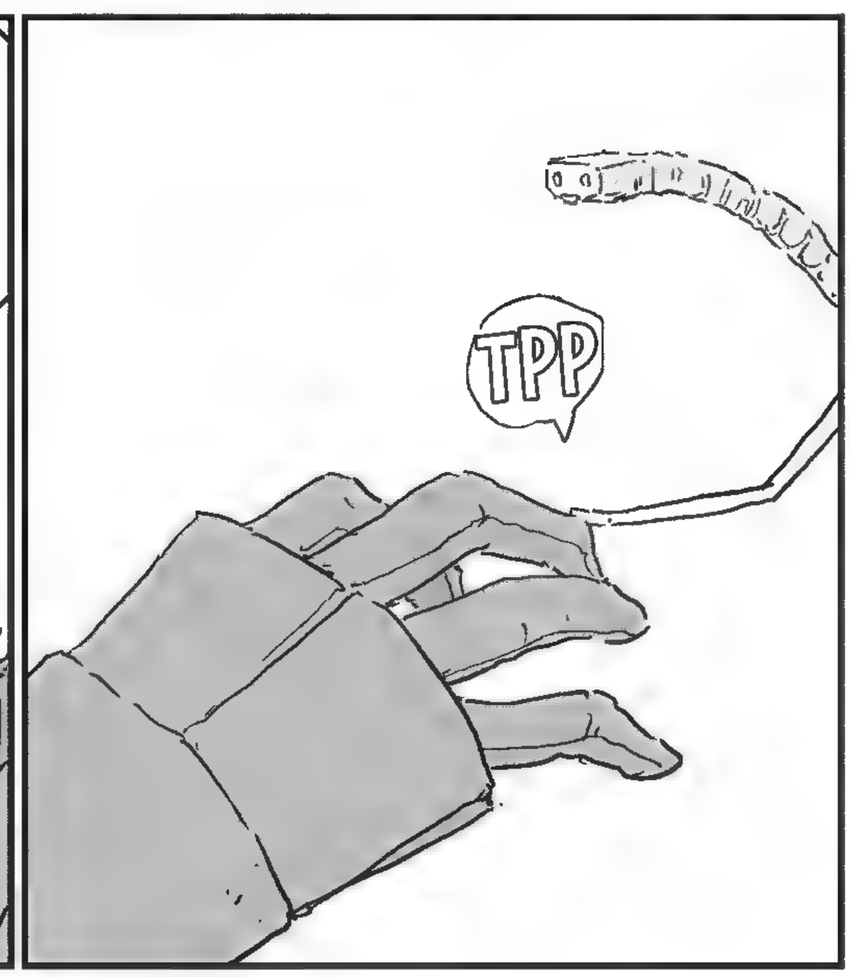
THERE'S A WAY FOR YOU AND ME TO BOTH ACHIEVE OUR GOALS AT THE SAME TIME.

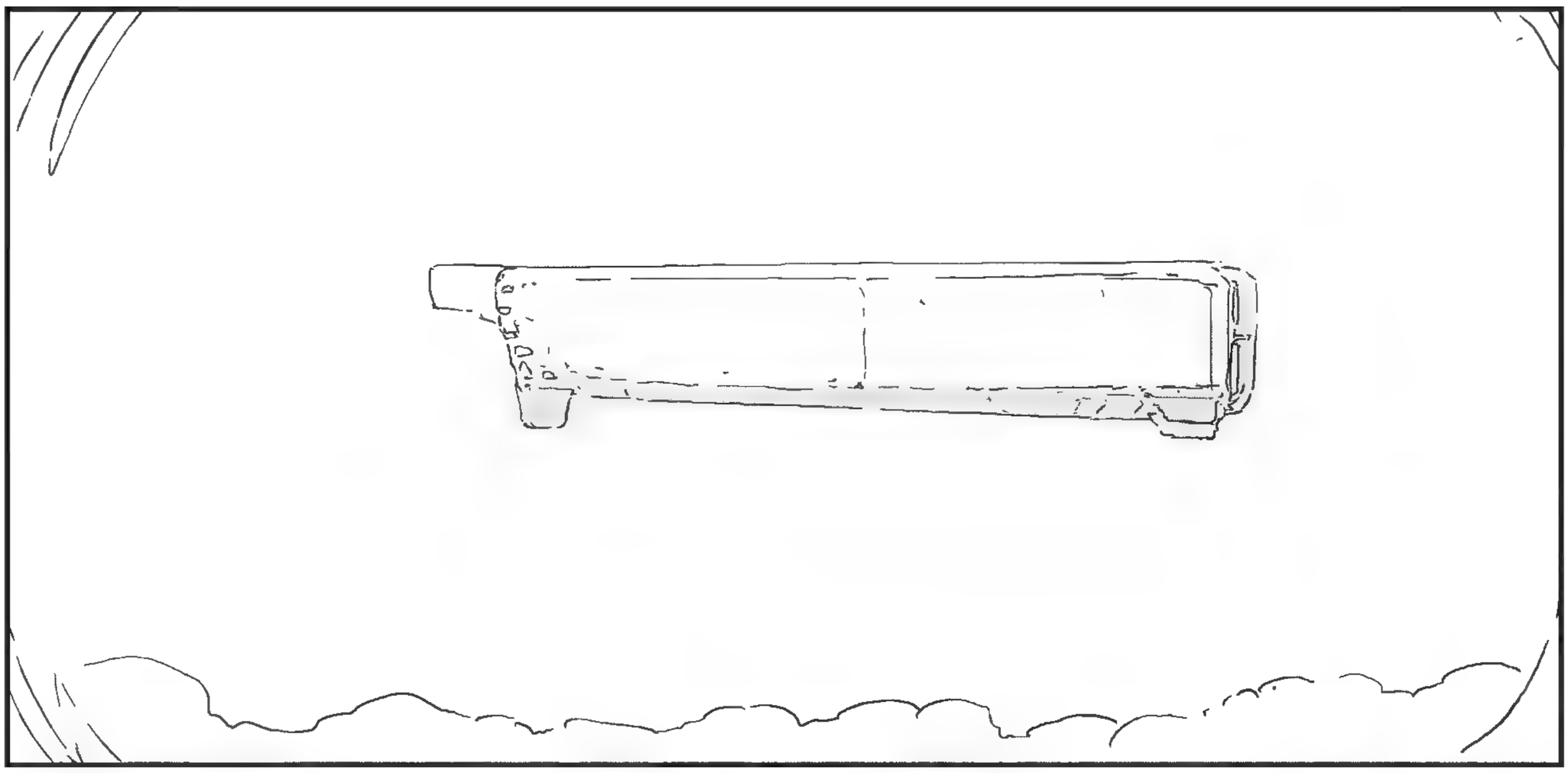
PKAK

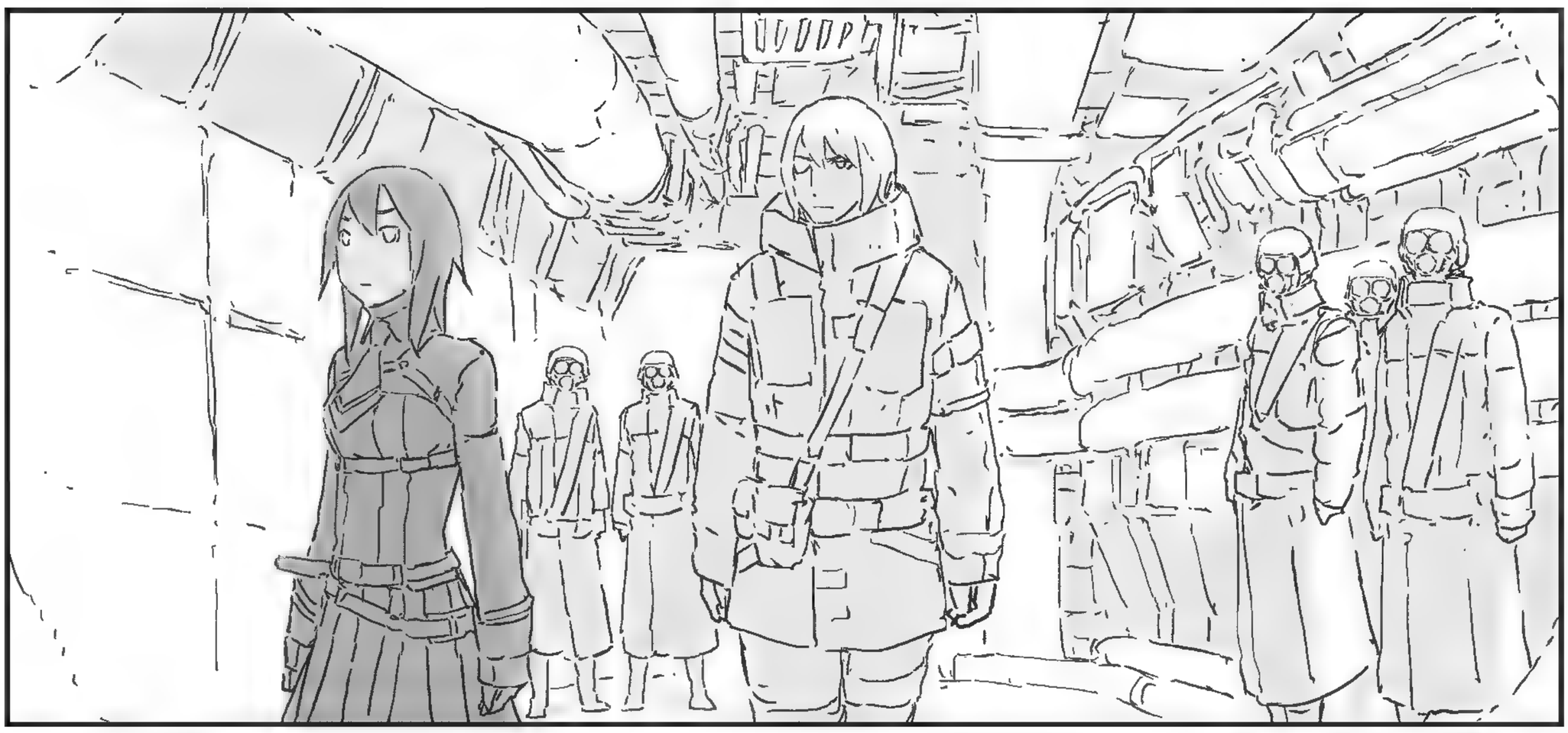
READ MY THOUGHTS. THAT WILL MAKE THIS CONVERSATION EASIER.

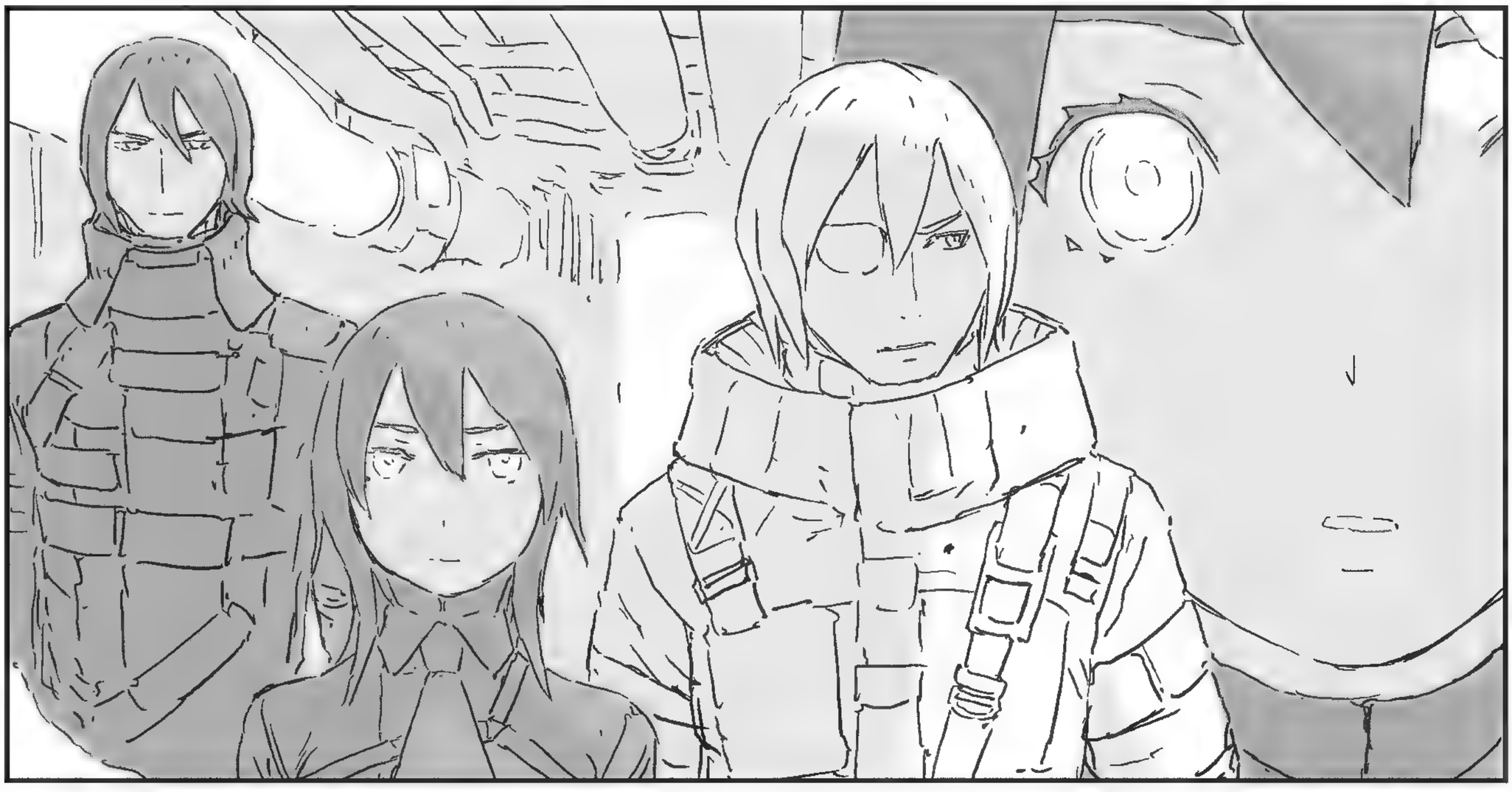


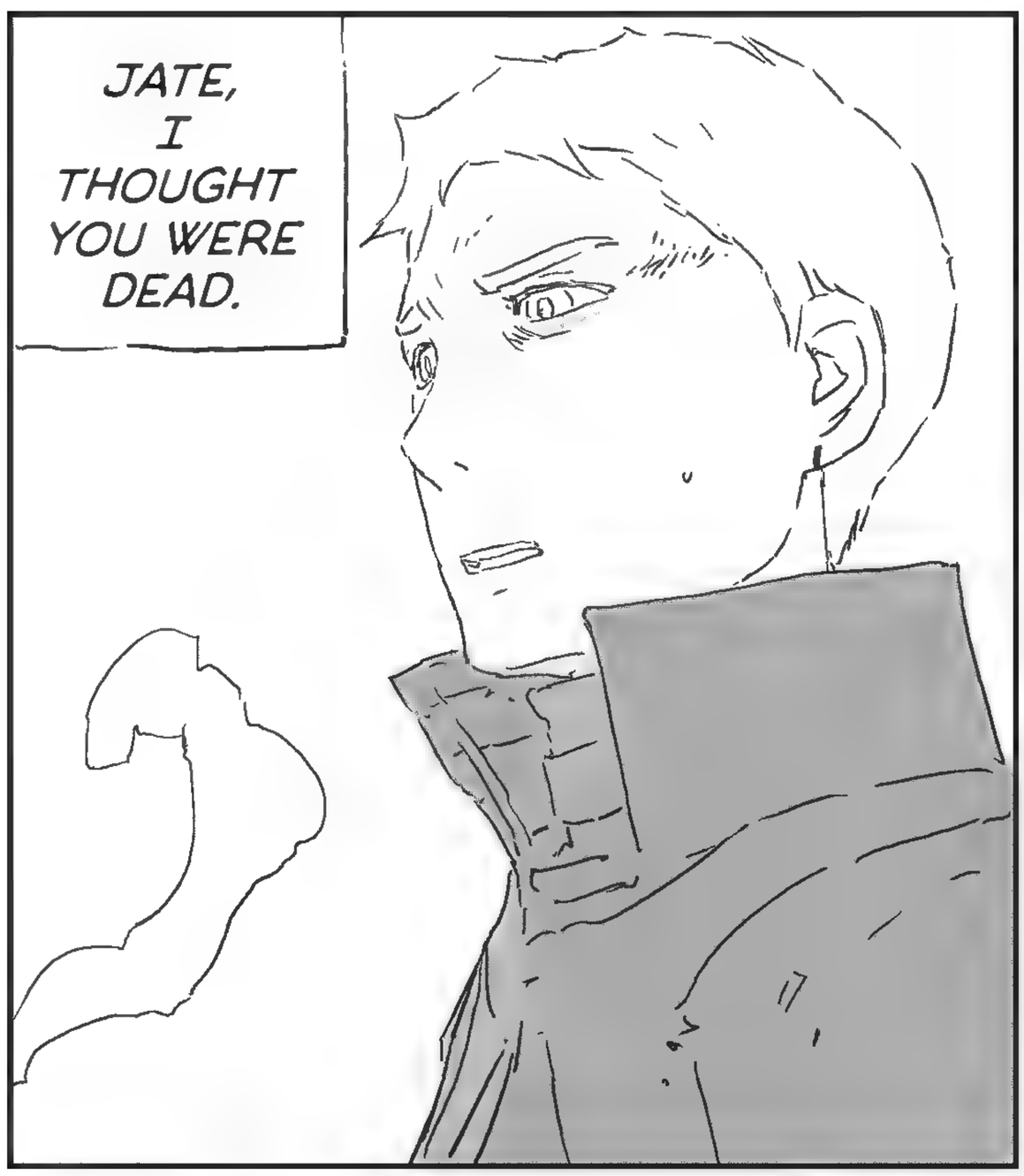

WE CAN TRUST HER.
SHE'S GRATEFUL TO US FOR RESCUING IMPERIAL CITIZENS.
AND SHE'S NOT IN COMMUNI-CATION WITH NEWKEY.
SHE'S NOT LYING.

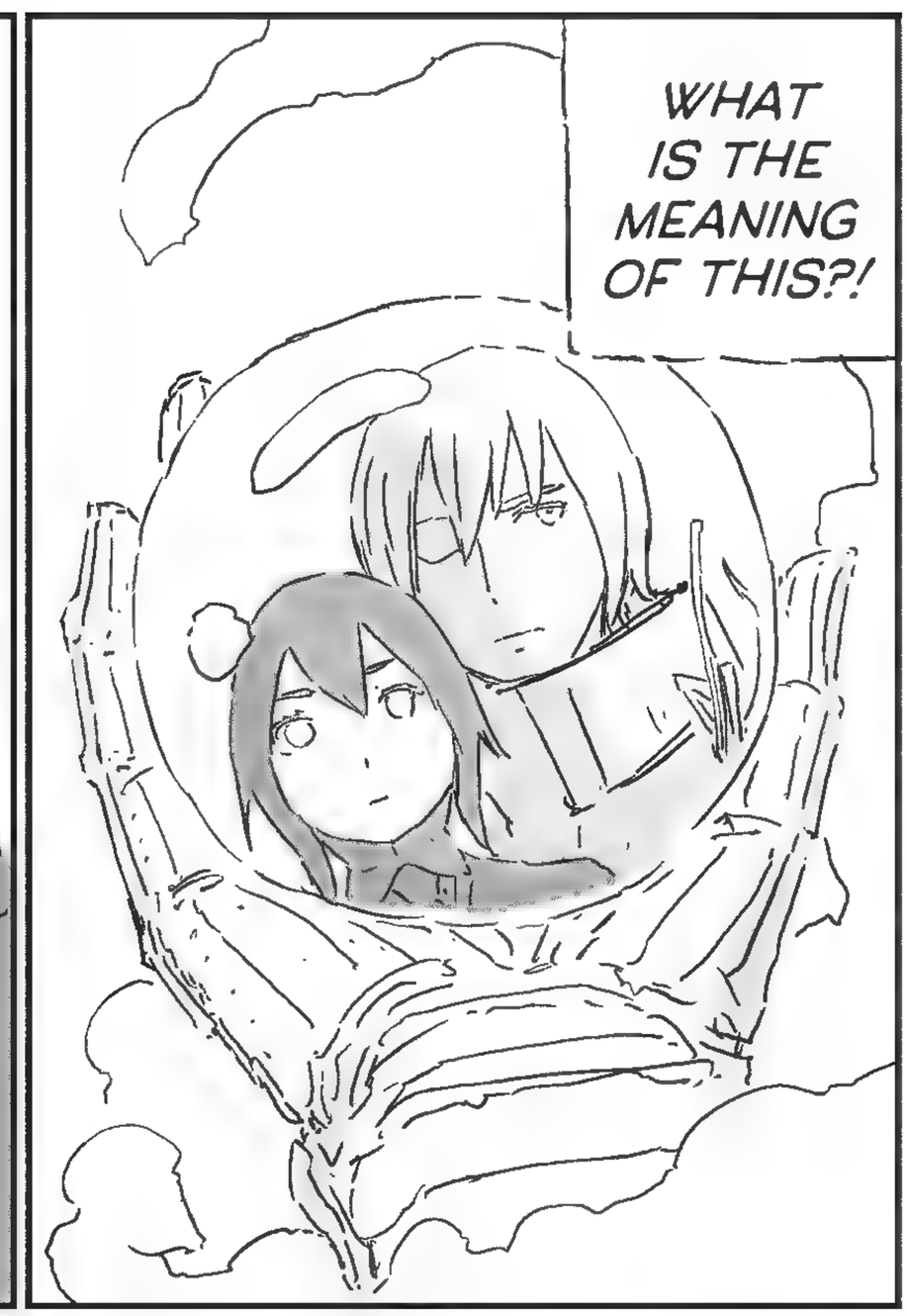

TPP

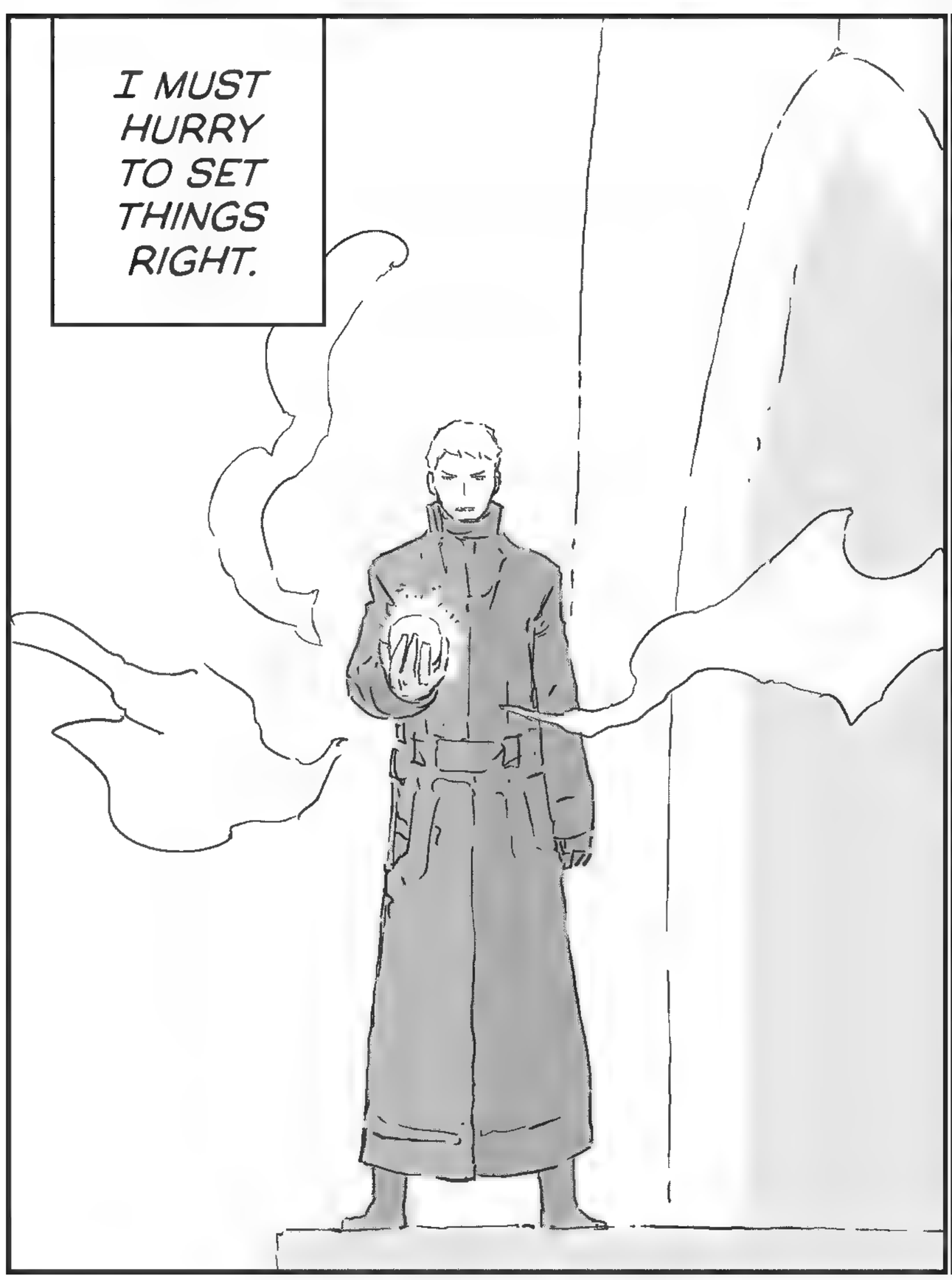


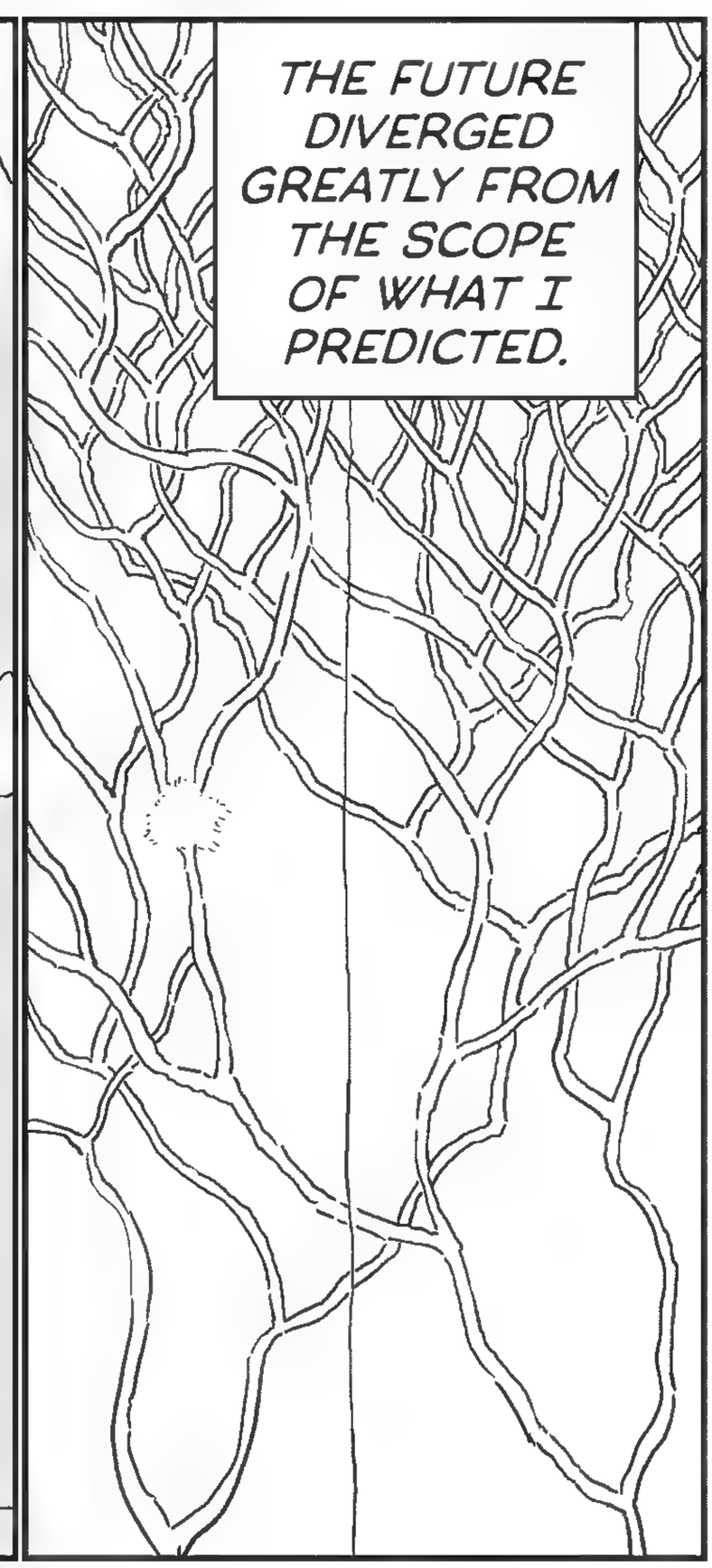


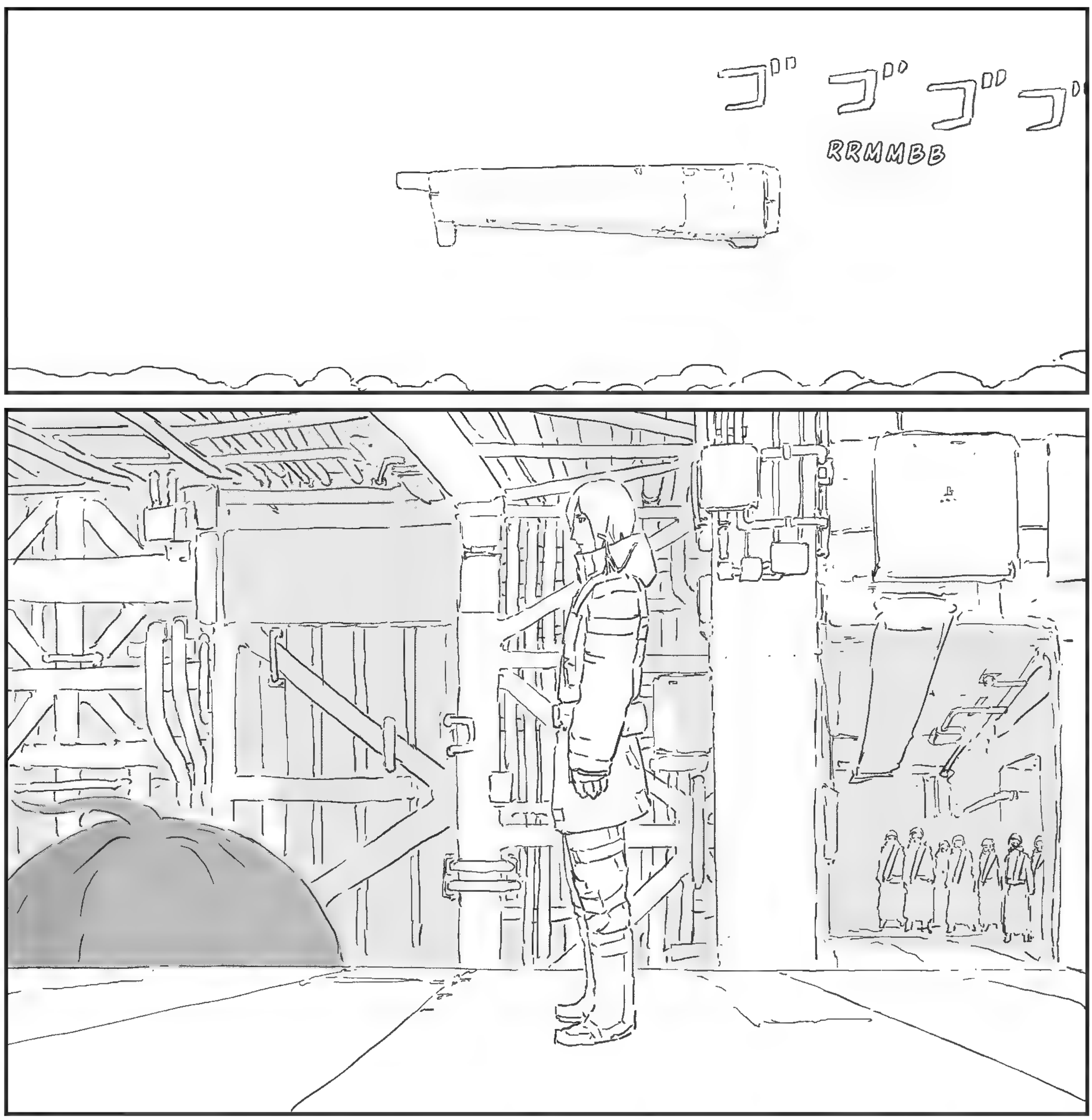


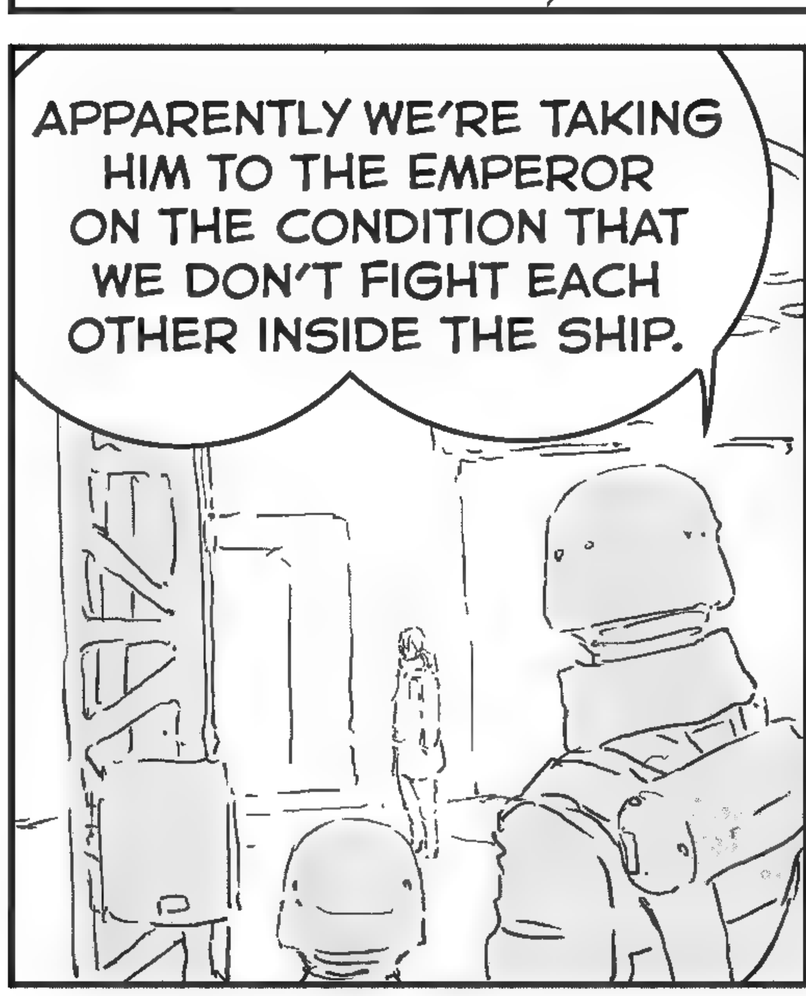

JATE, I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.

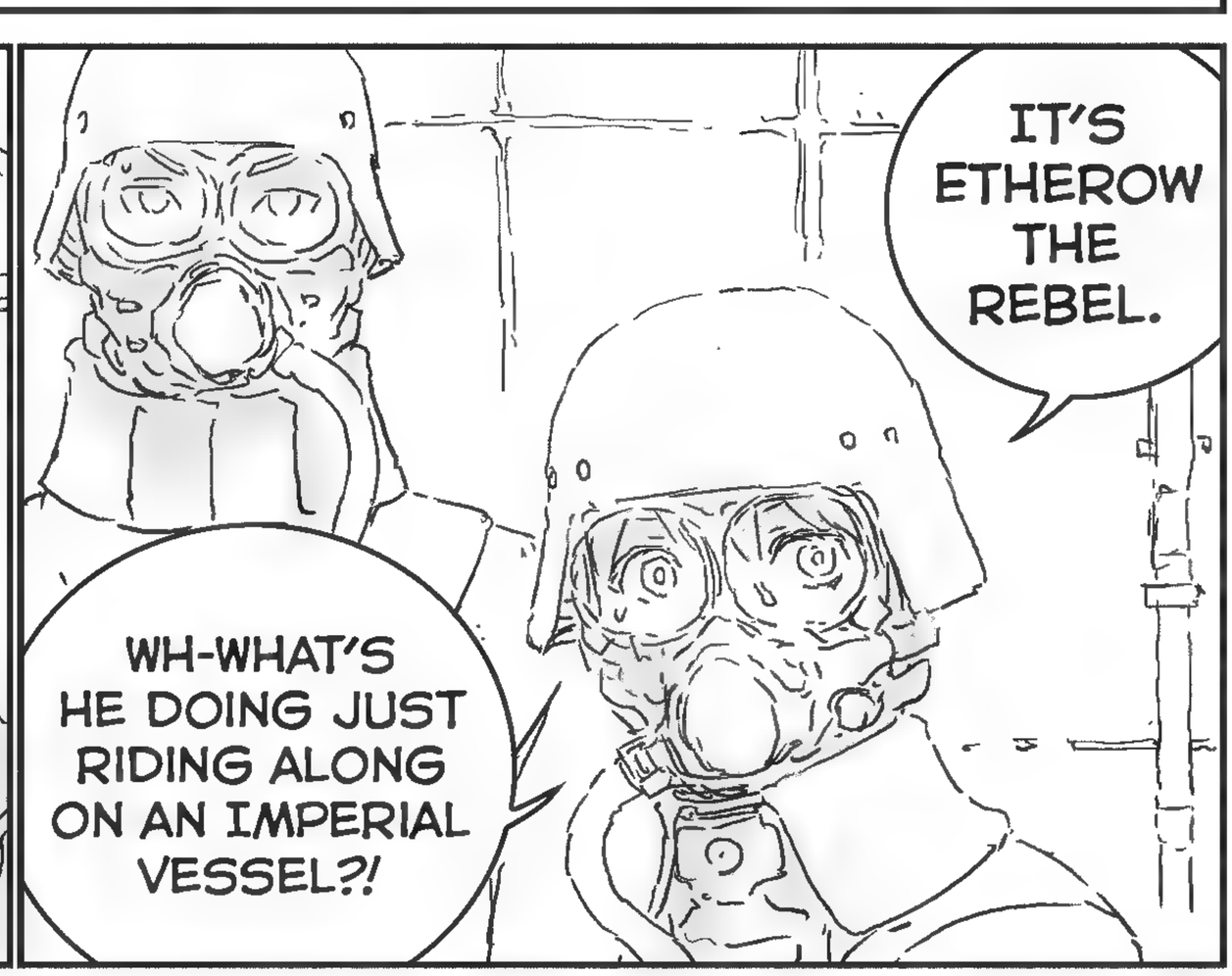

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!


I MUST HURRY TO SET THINGS RIGHT.

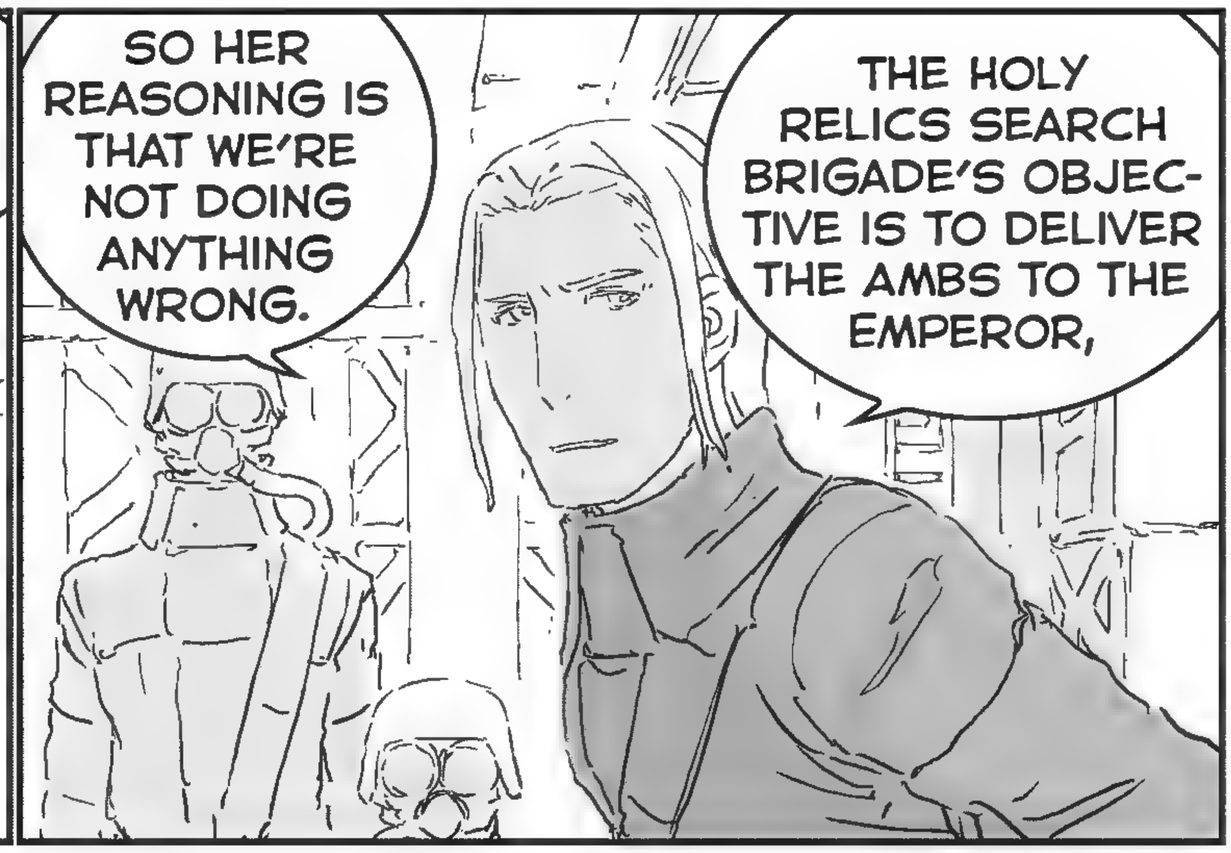

THE FUTURE DIVERGED GREATLY FROM THE SCOPE OF WHAT I PREDICTED.

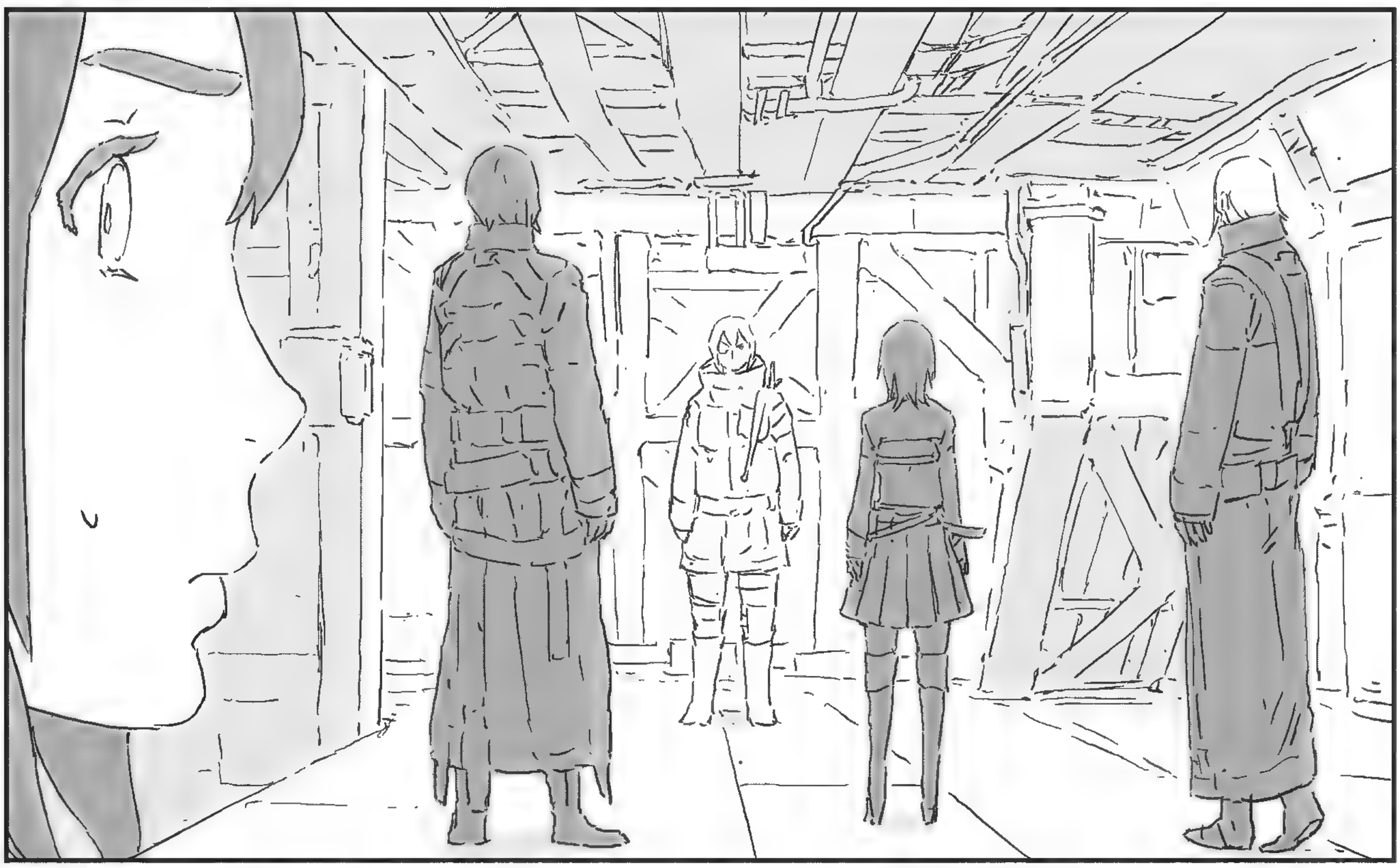

RRMMBB

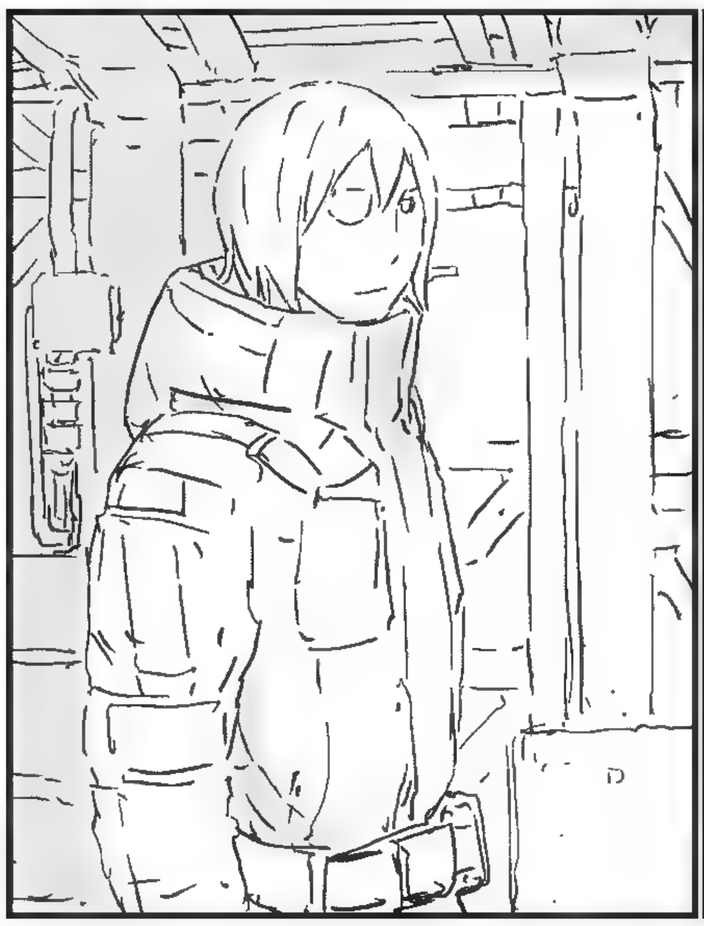

APPARENTLY WE'RE TAKING HIM TO THE EMPEROR ON THE CONDITION THAT WE DON'T FIGHT EACH OTHER INSIDE THE SHIP.

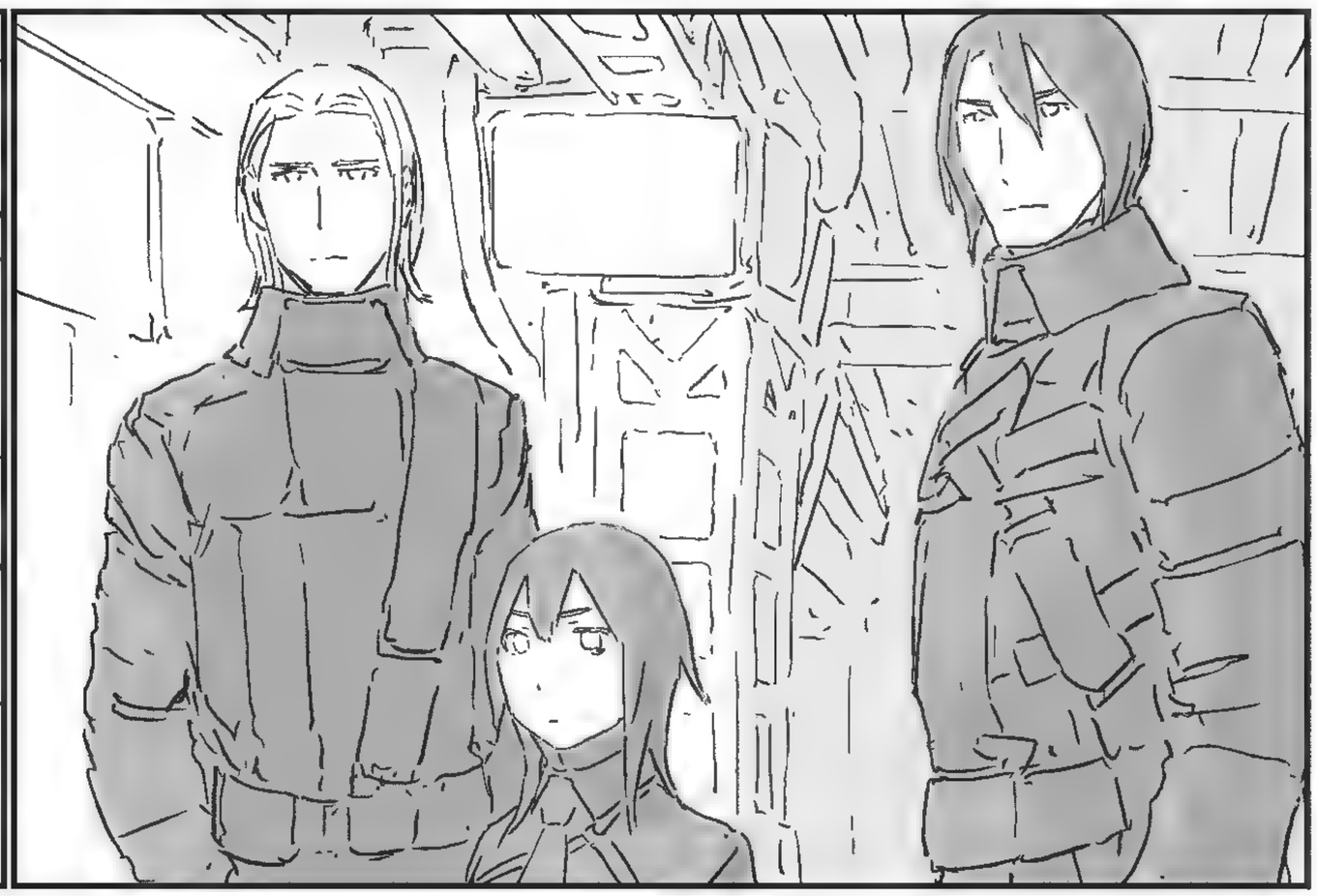

IT'S ETHEROW THE REBEL.
WH-WHAT'S HE DOING JUST RIDING ALONG ON AN IMPERIAL VESSEL?!

BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY
SUDDENLY GO BERSERK?
WHOA ...


SO HER REASONING IS THAT WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING WRONG.
THE HOLY RELICS SEARCH BRIGADE'S OBJECTIVE IS TO DELIVER THE AMBS TO THE EMPEROR,







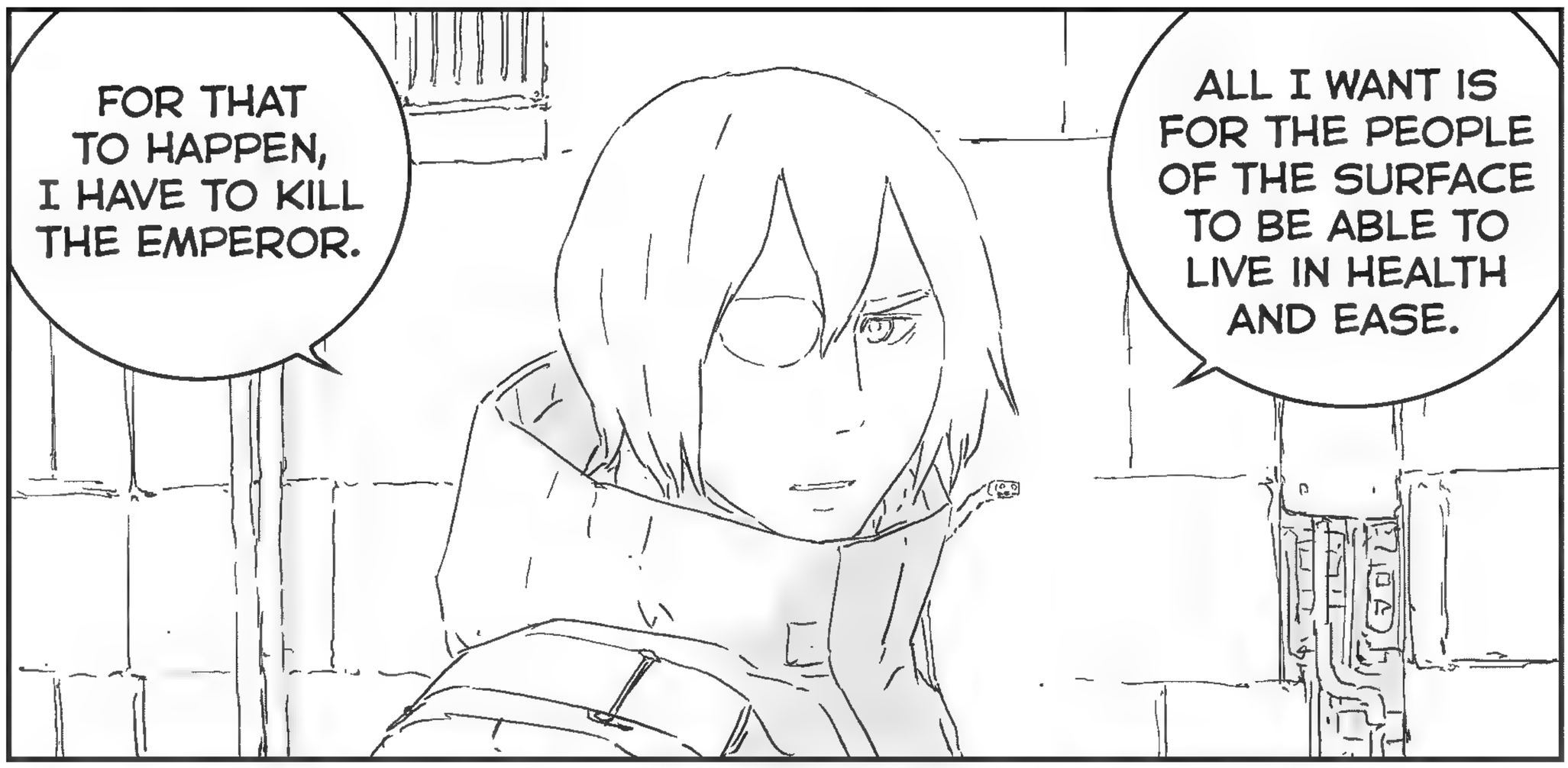
OH!

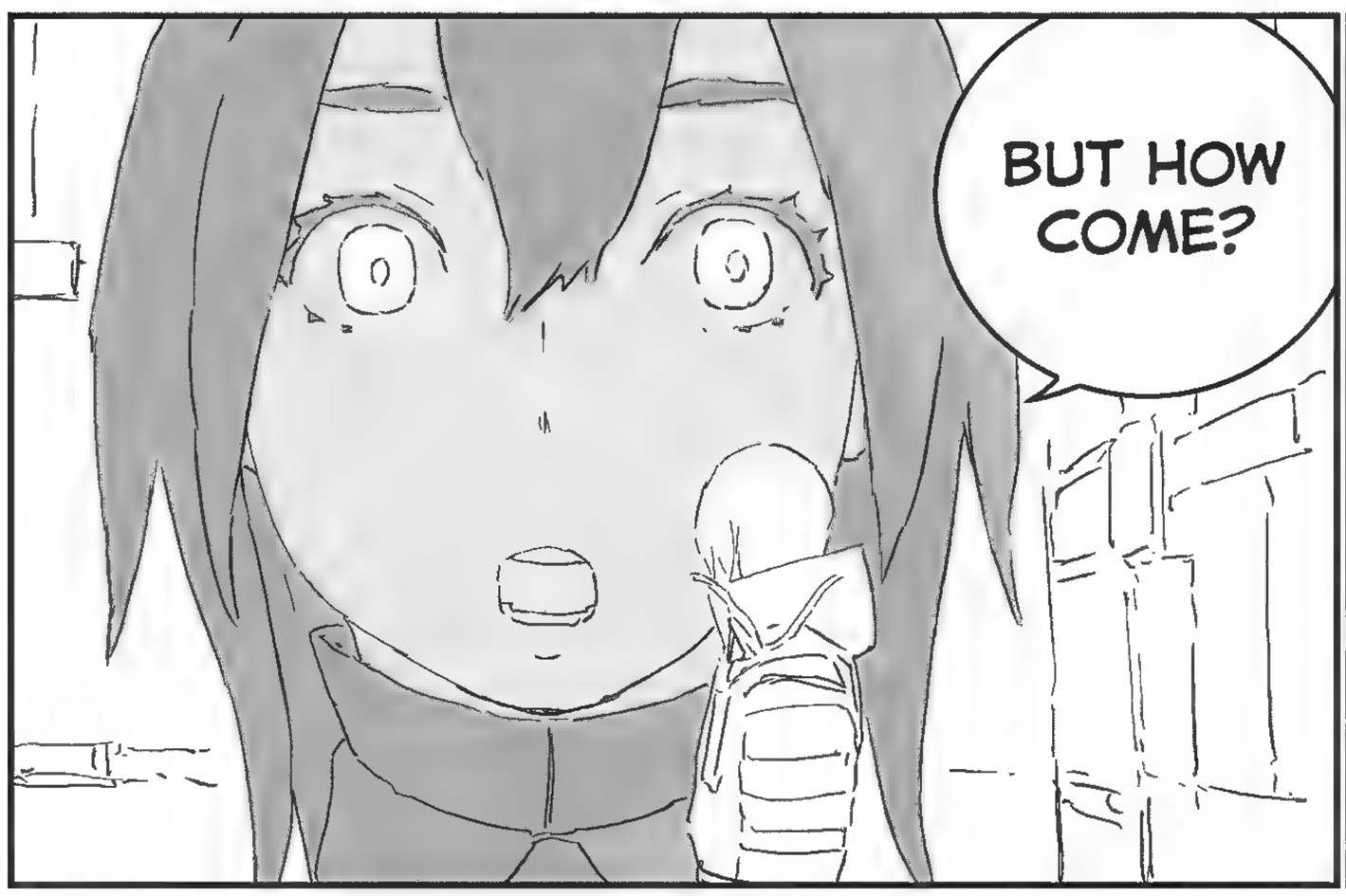
UMM ...

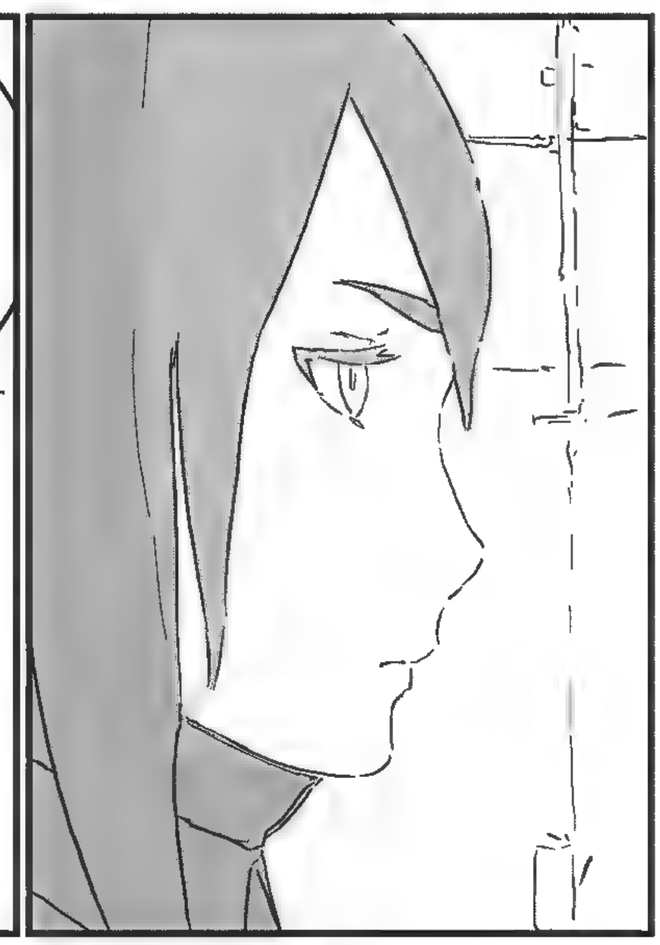
!!

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR?

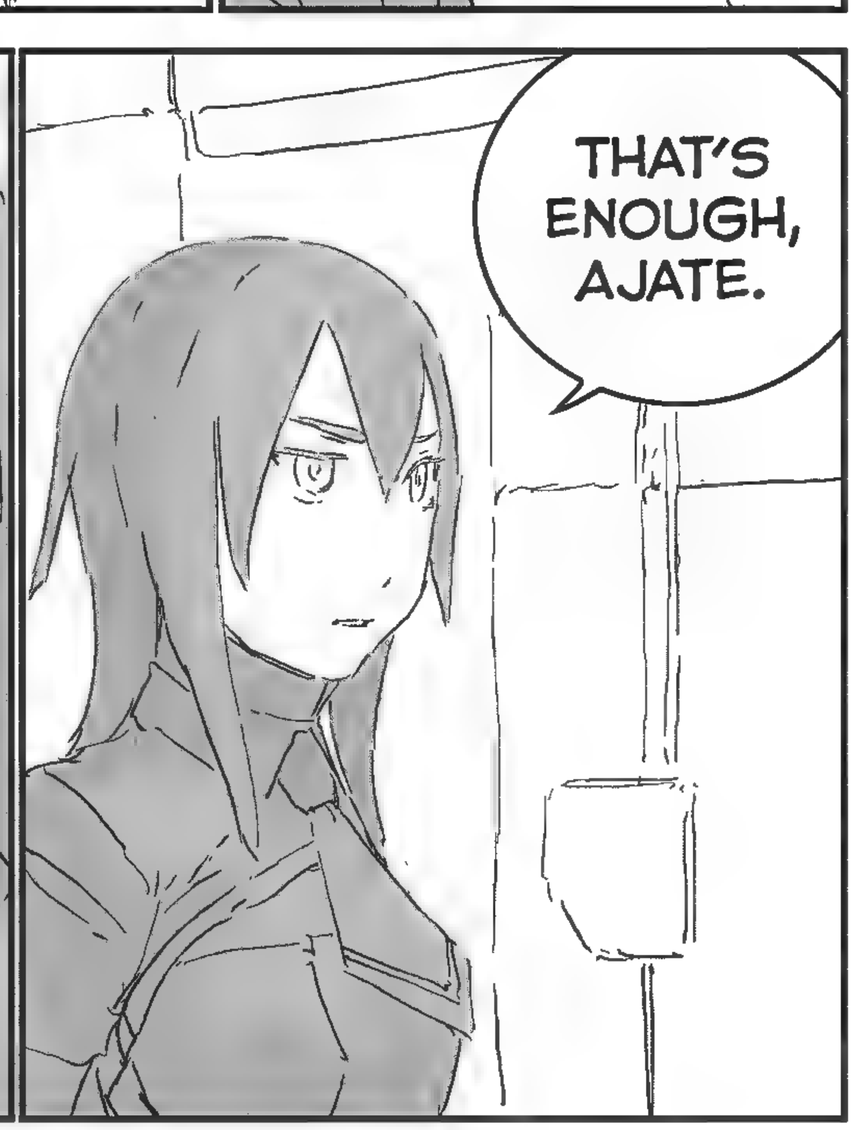
FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE.

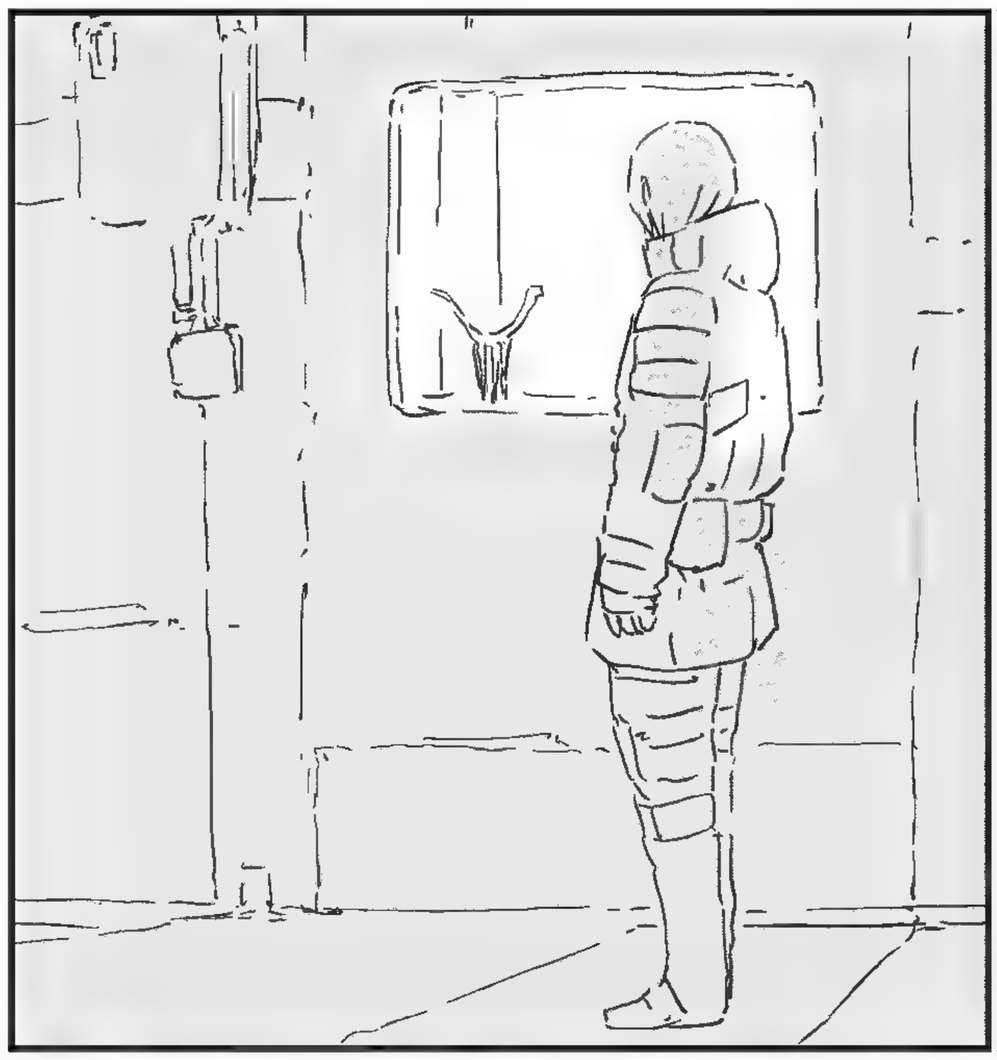

FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, I HAVE TO KILL THE EMPEROR.
ALL I WANT IS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN HEALTH AND EASE.

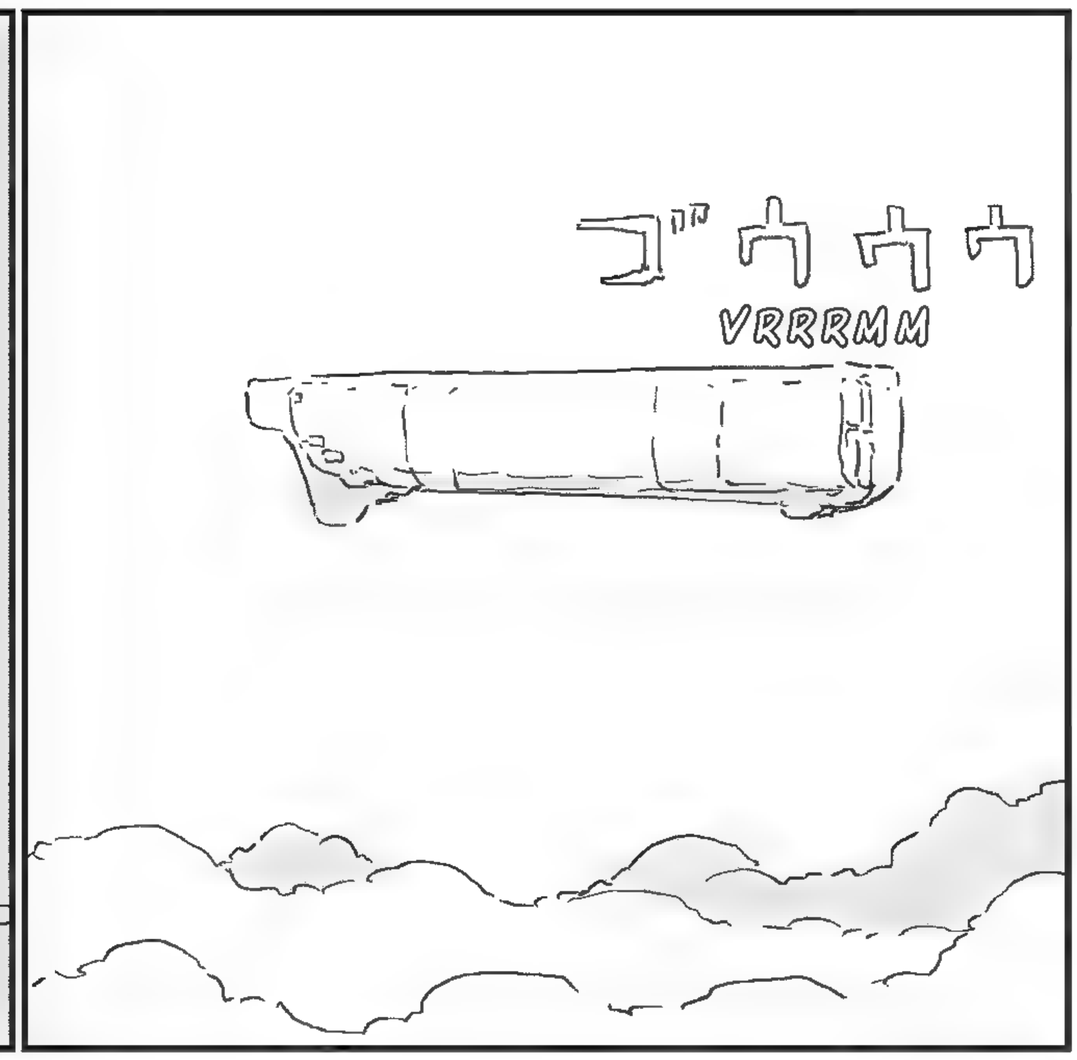

BUT HOW COME?



NO ONE SPEAK TO ETHEROW.

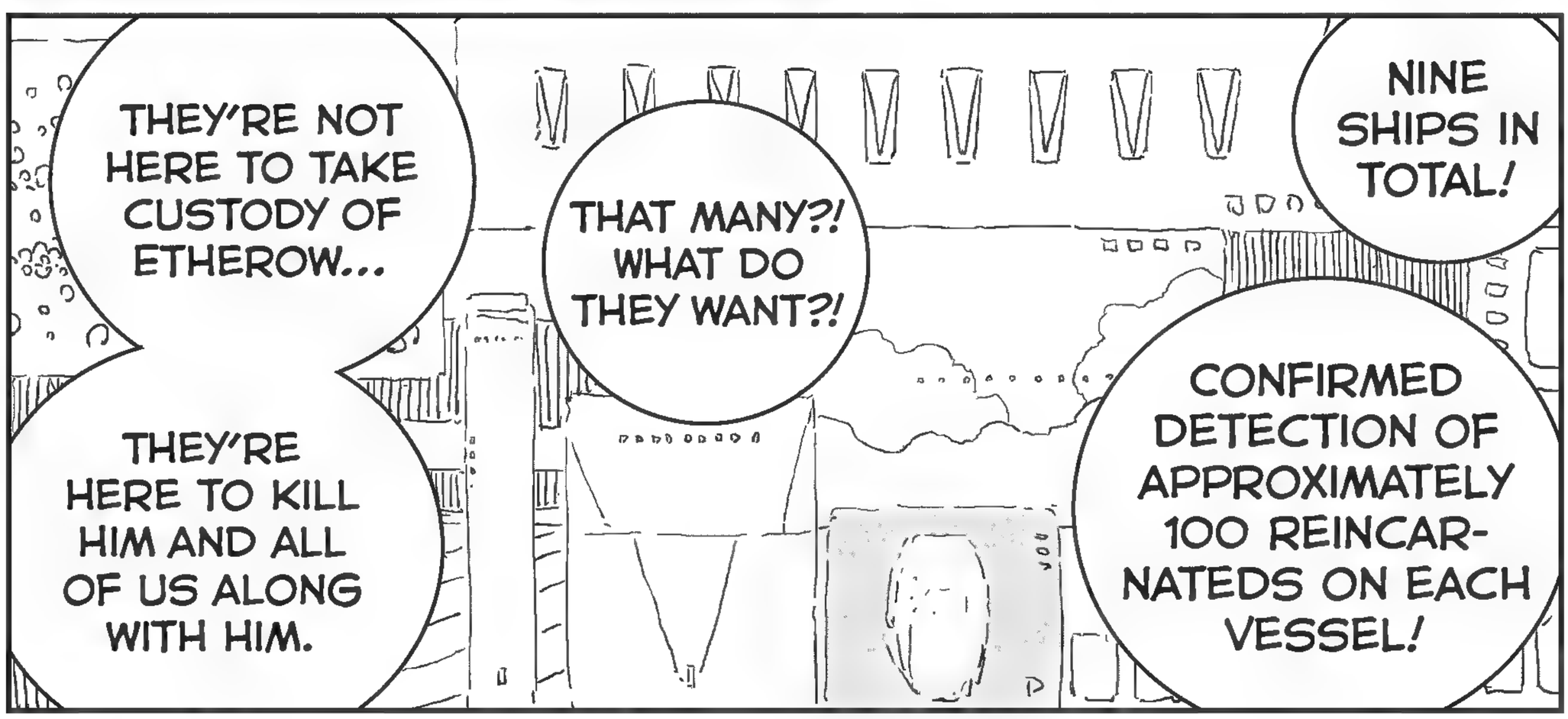

THAT'S ENOUGH, AJATE.

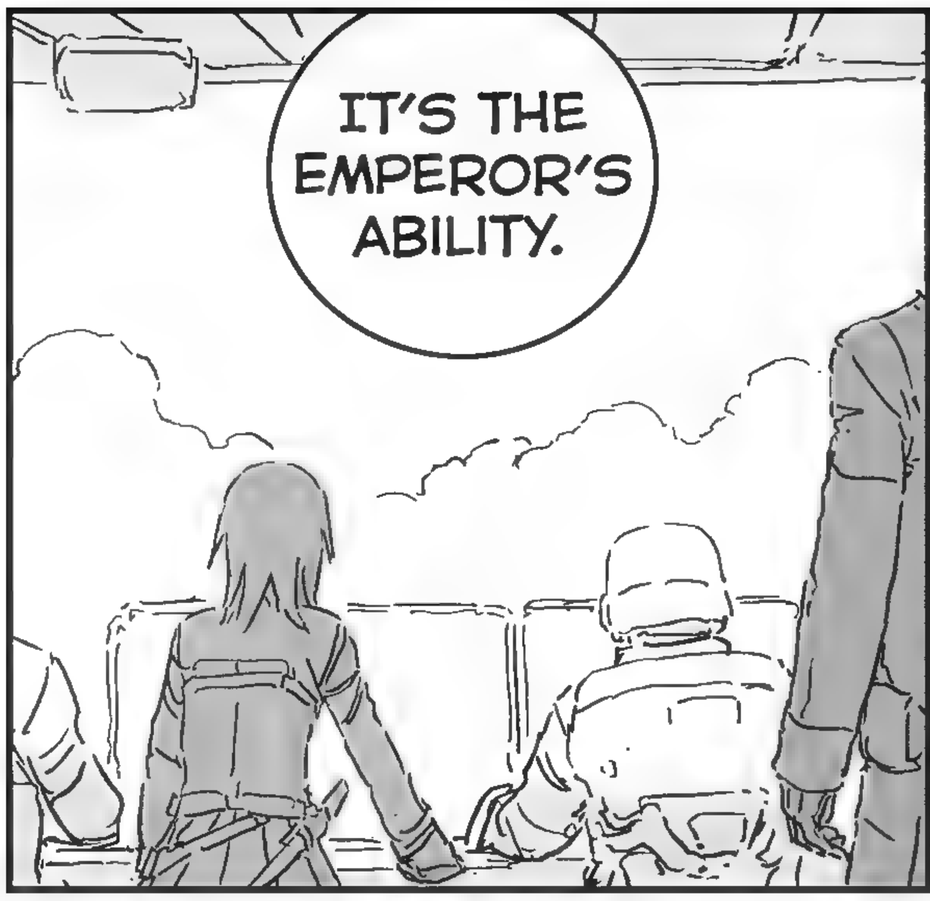



VRRRMM

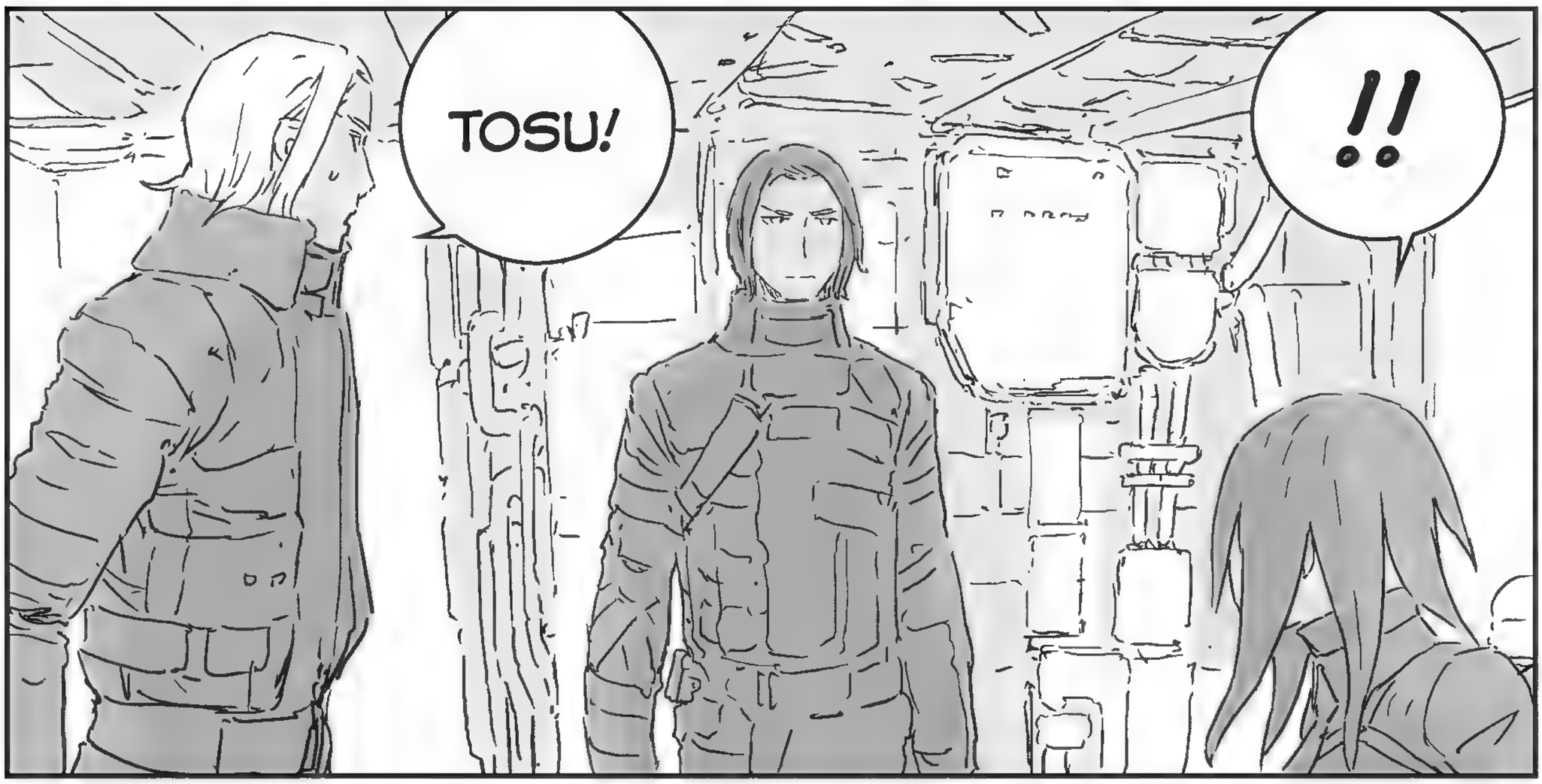
YES, SIR.
ARE THEY COMING THIS WAY?

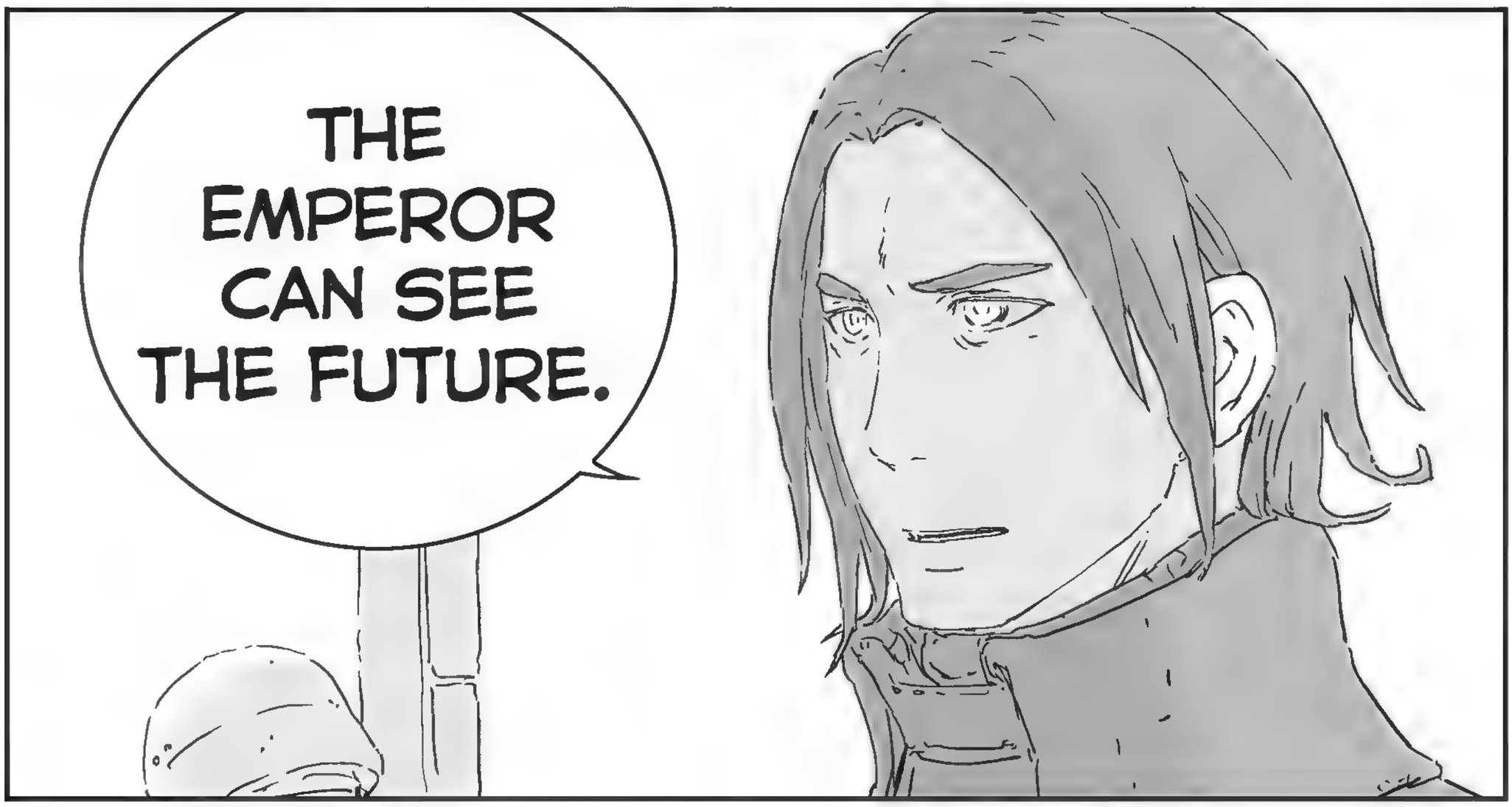
THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME COMMOTION.

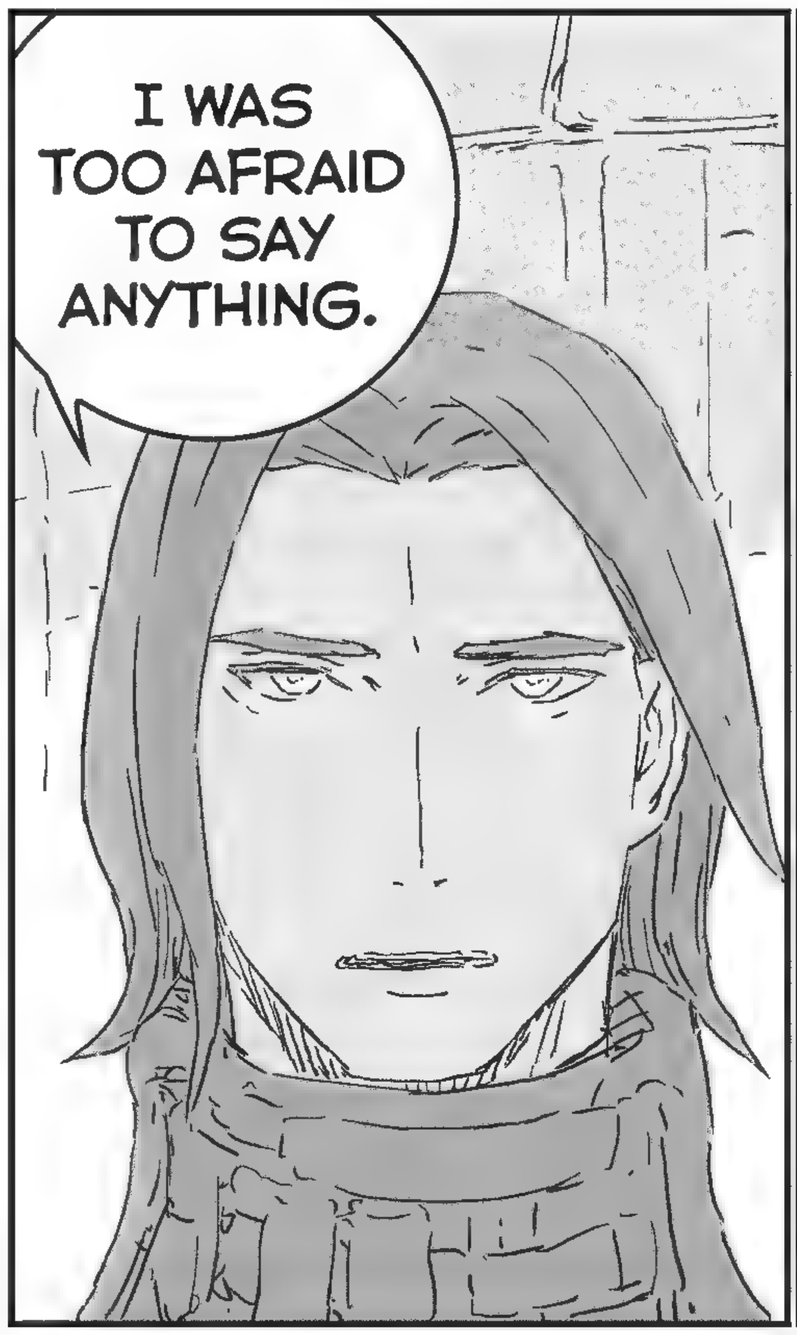

THEY'RE NOT HERE TO TAKE CUSTODY OF ETHEROW...
THEY'RE HERE TO KILL HIM AND ALL OF US ALONG WITH HIM.
THAT MANY?! WHAT DO THEY WANT?!
NINE SHIPS IN TOTAL!
CONFIRMED DETECTION OF APPROXIMATELY 100 REINCAR-NATEDS ON EACH VESSEL!


IT'S THE EMPEROR'S ABILITY.

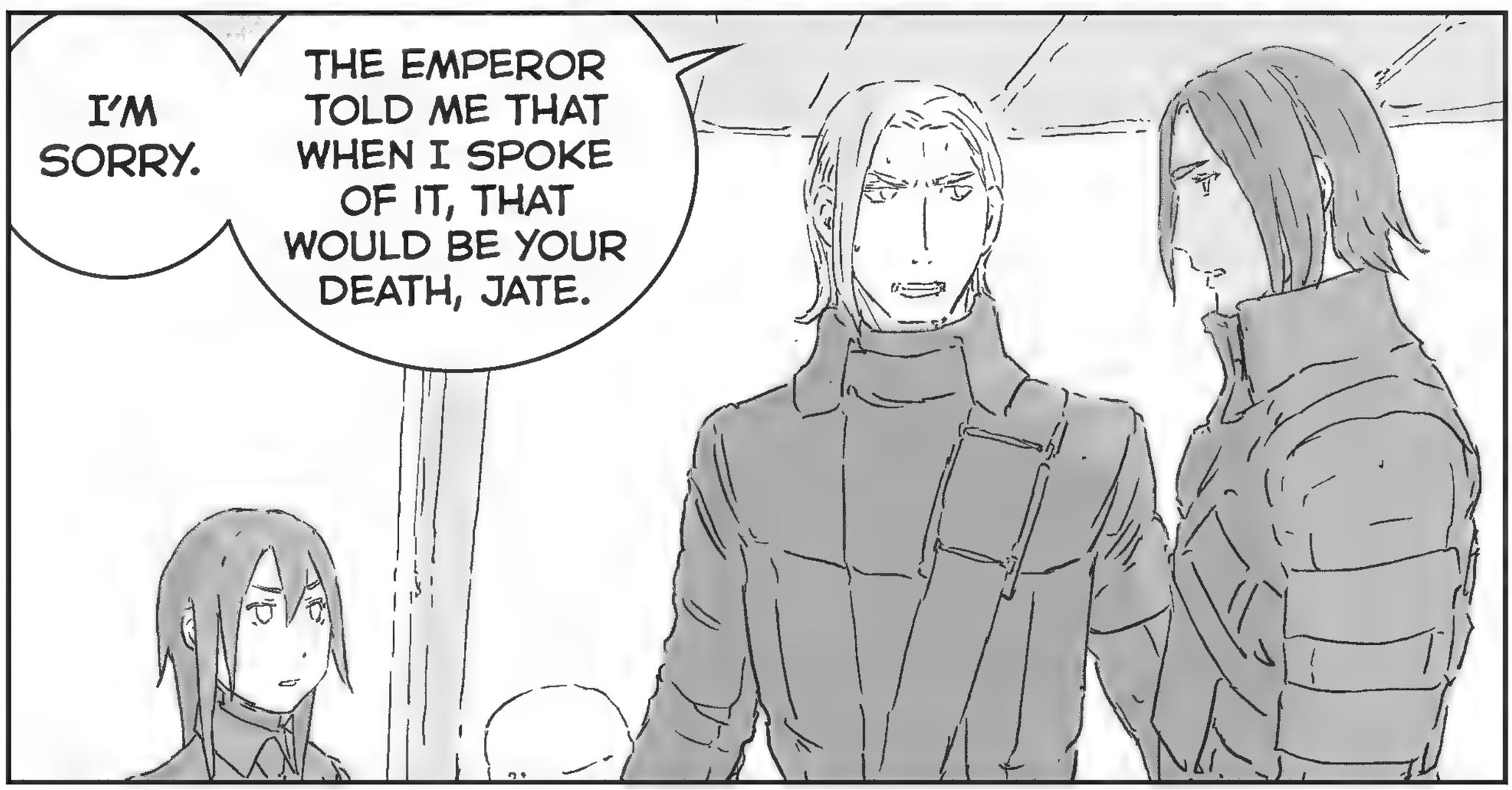
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, HOW DID THEY KNOW ETHEROW WAS ON BOARD?!

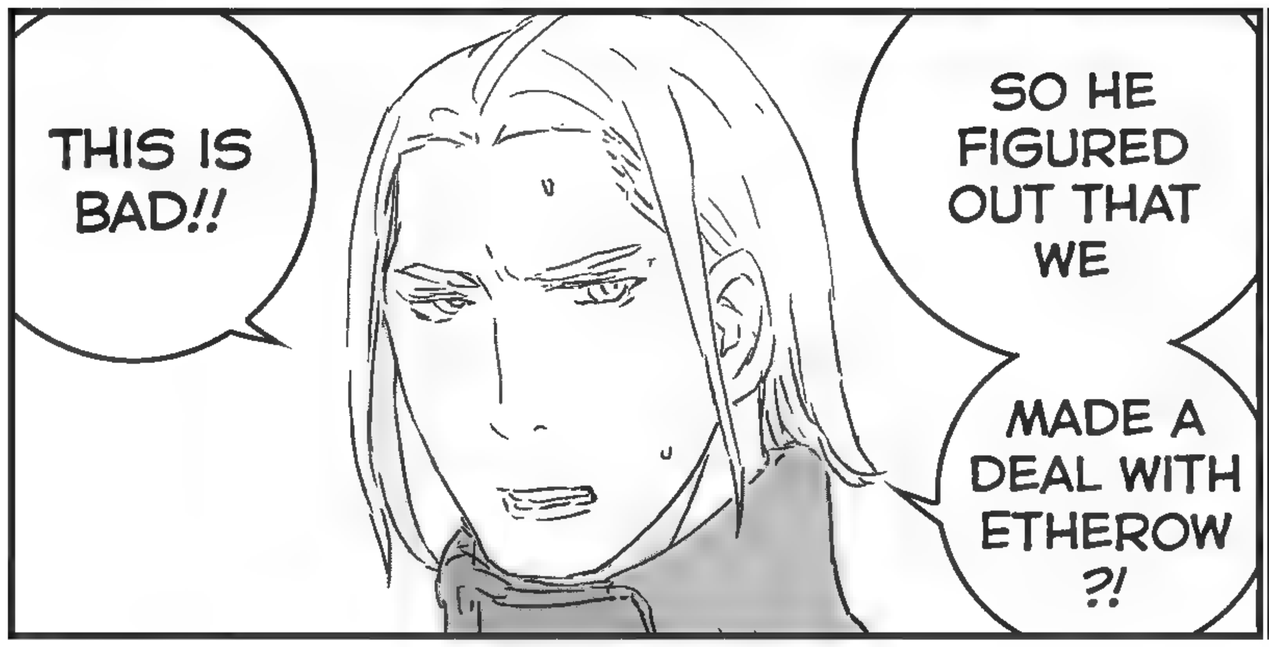

TOSU!
!!

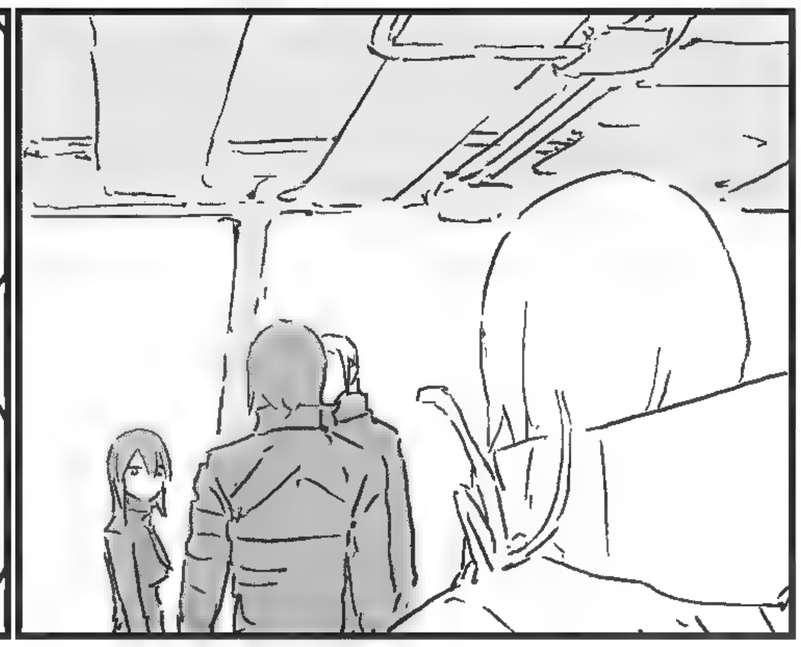

THE EMPEROR CAN SEE THE FUTURE.

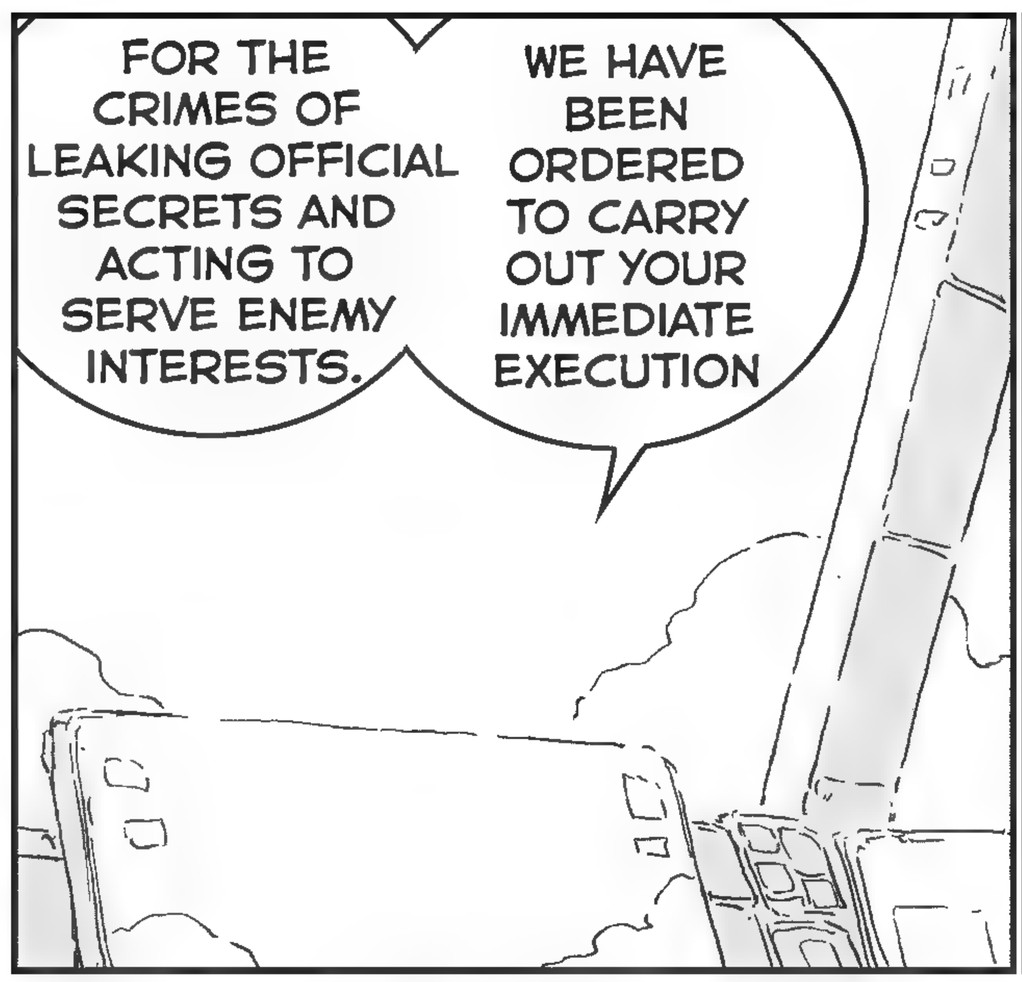

I WAS TOO AFRAID TO SAY ANYTHING.

WHY DID YOU KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT?
YOU KNEW THIS, TOSU?

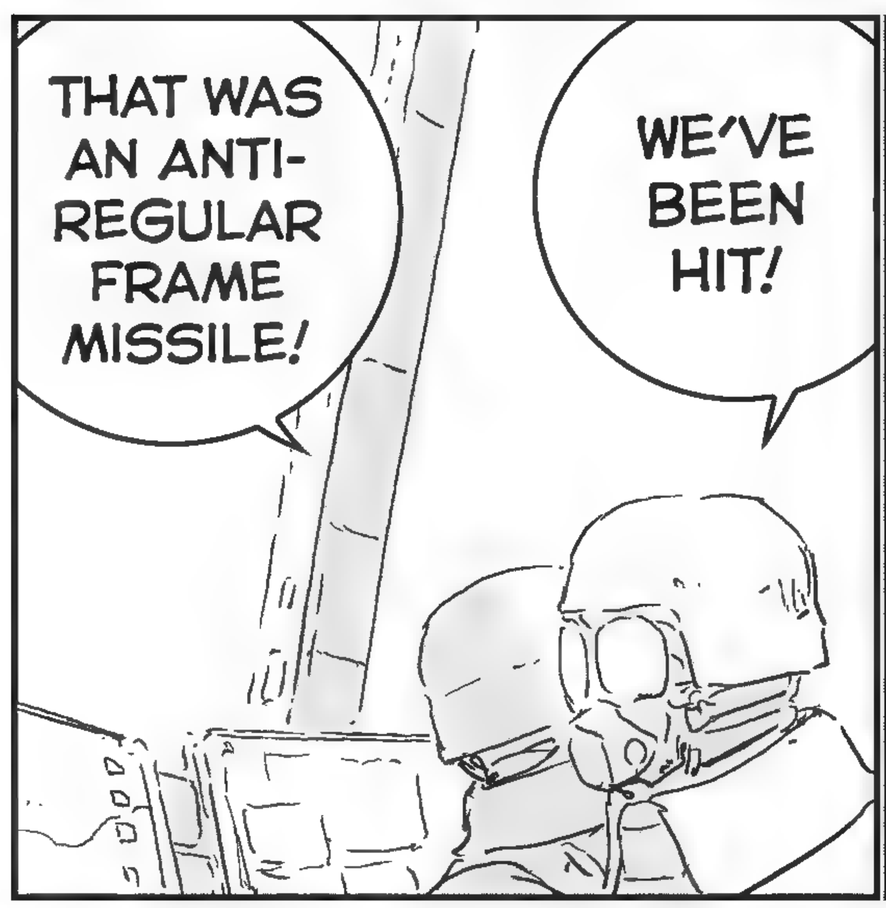

I'M SORRY.
THE EMPEROR TOLD ME THAT WHEN I SPOKE OF IT, THAT WOULD BE YOUR DEATH, JATE.

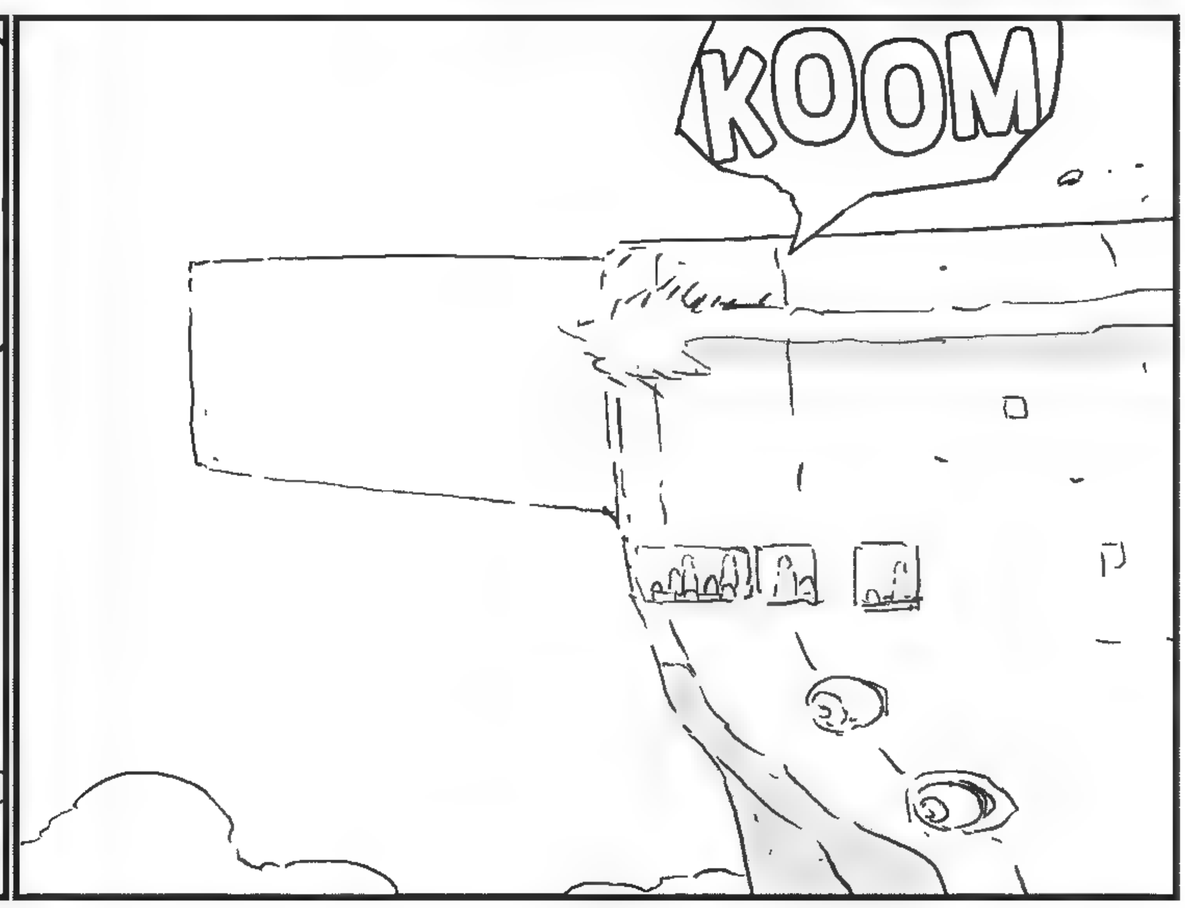

THIS IS BAD!!
SO HE FIGURED OUT THAT WE
MADE A DEAL WITH ETHEROW ?!

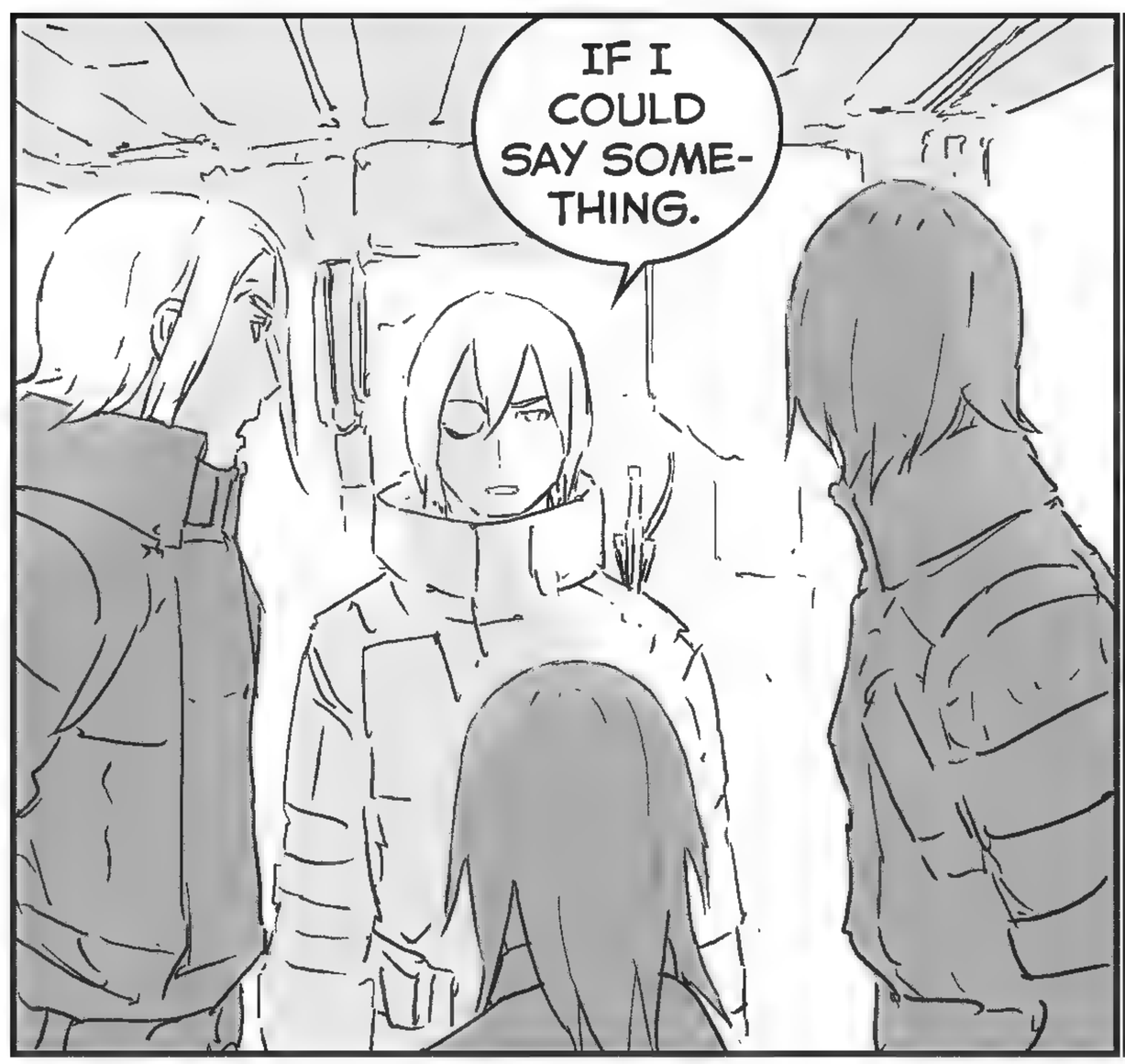



FOR THE CRIMES OF LEAKING OFFICIAL SECRETS AND ACTING TO SERVE ENEMY INTERESTS.
WE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO CARRY OUT YOUR IMMEDIATE EXECUTION

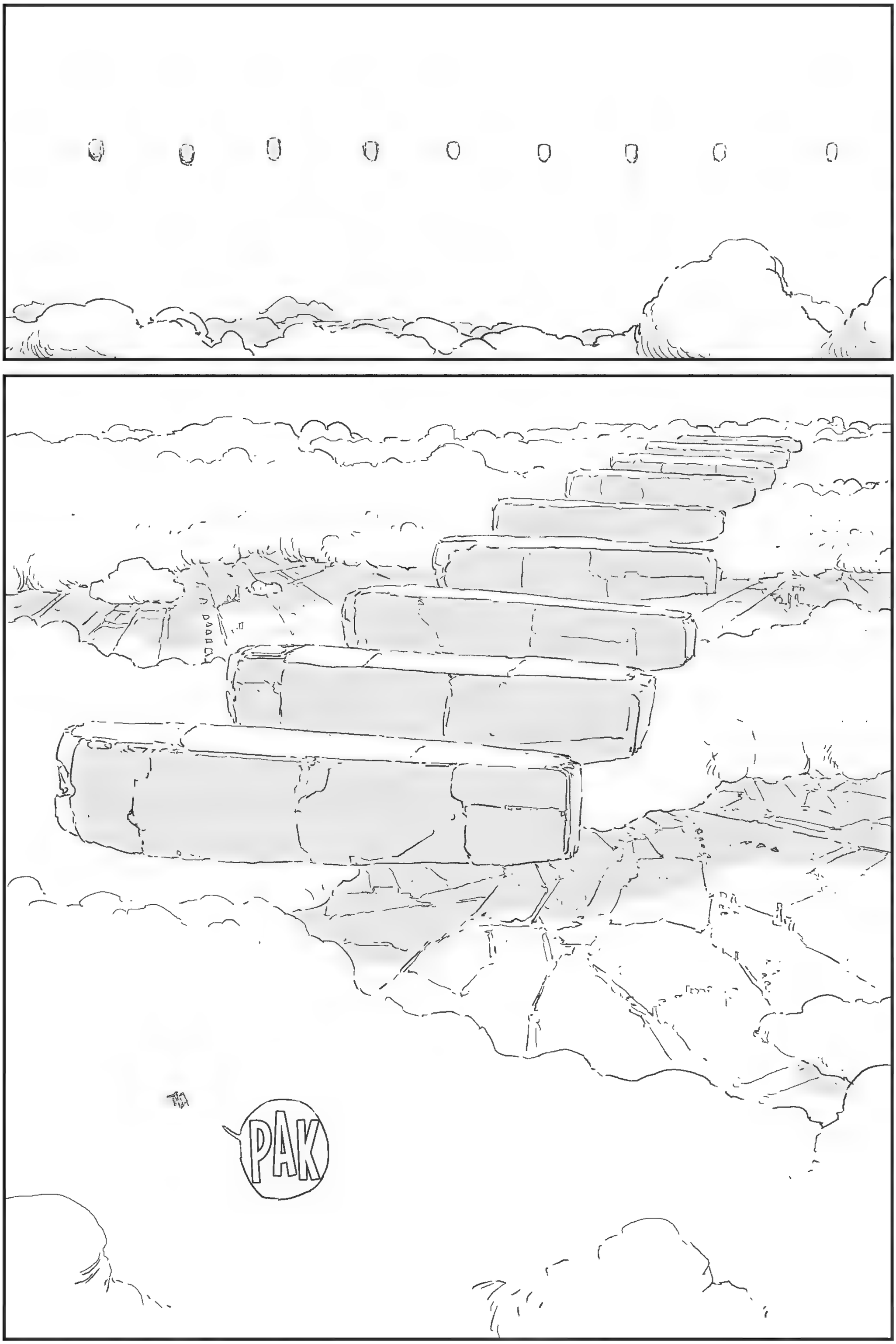
WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE, THIS IS NO TIME FOR US TO BE FIGHTING.
THIS IS THE HOLY RELICS SEARCH BRIGADE!
PLEASE LET US EXPLAIN!

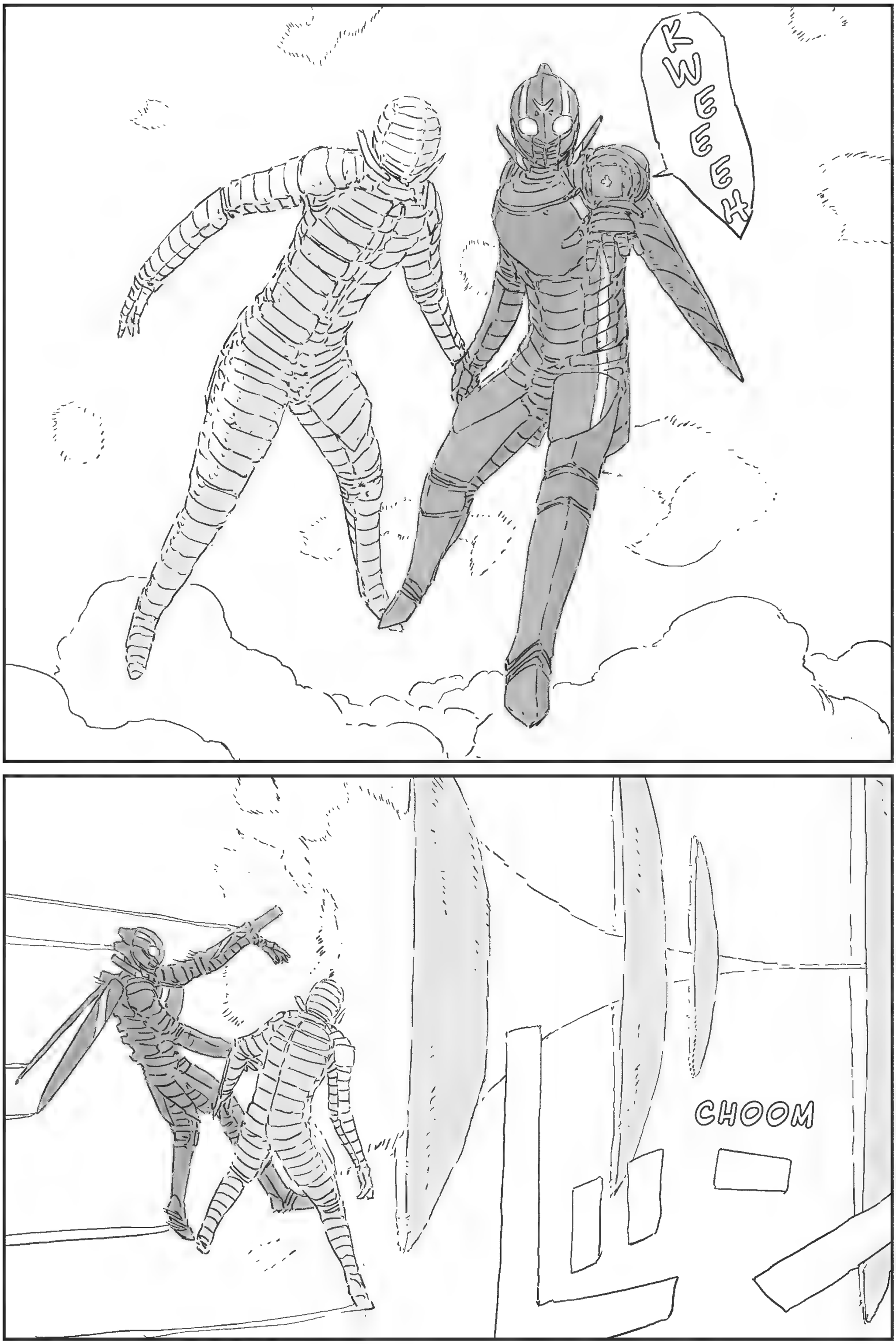

THAT WAS AN ANTI-REGULAR FRAME MISSILE!
WE'VE BEEN HIT!

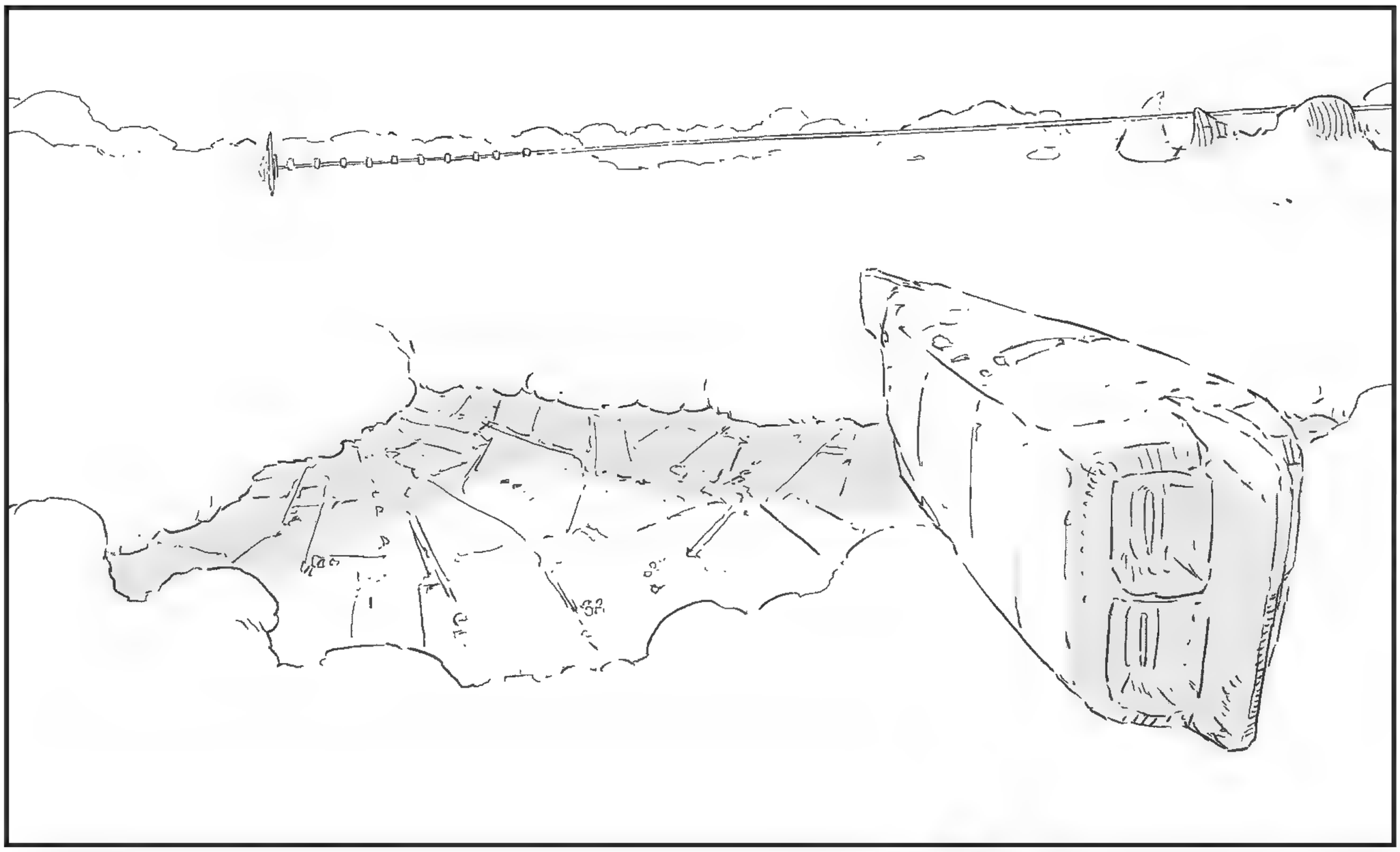

KOOM

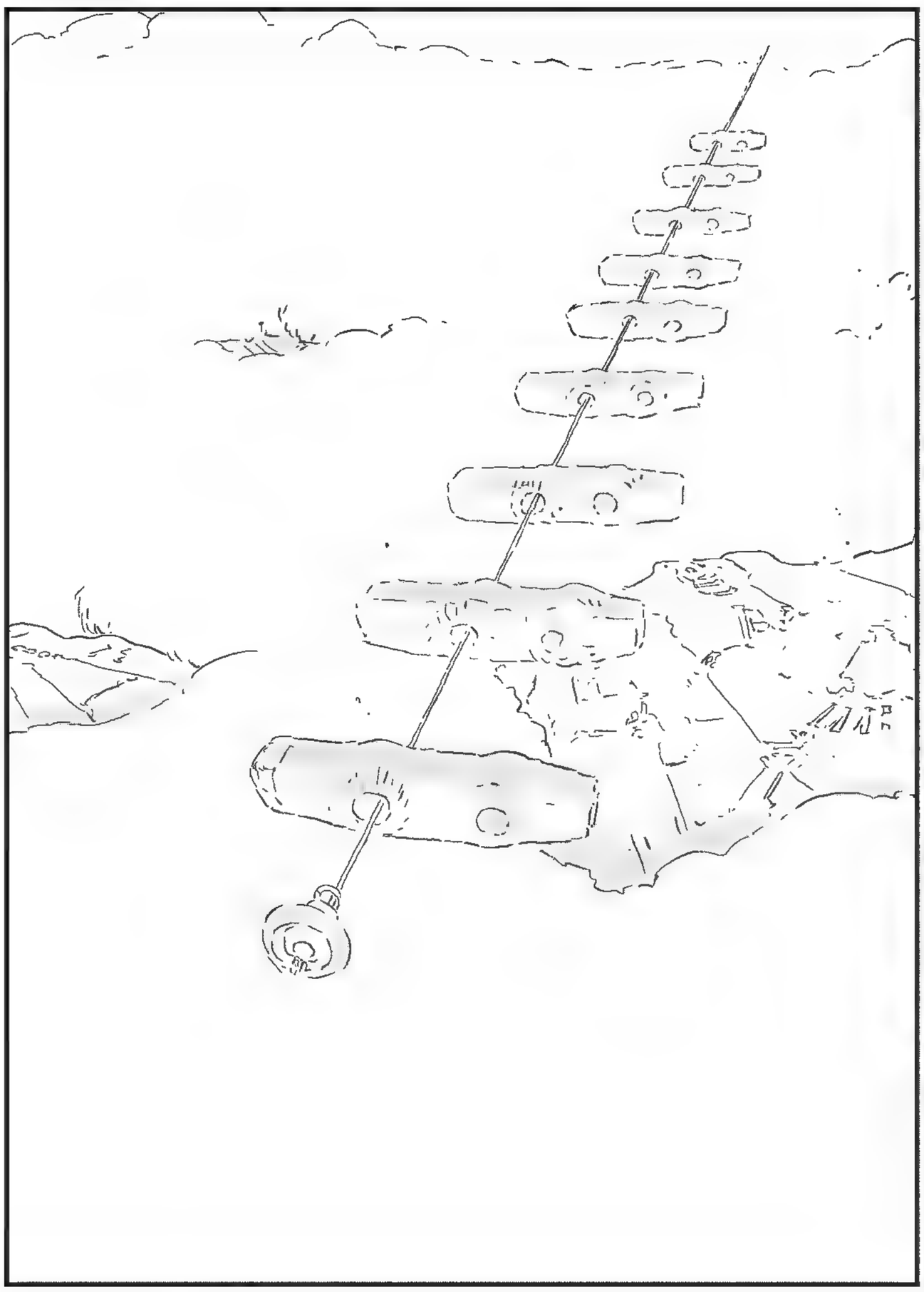

IF I COULD SAY SOME-THING.

RETURN FIRE!
W... W-W-WAIT!

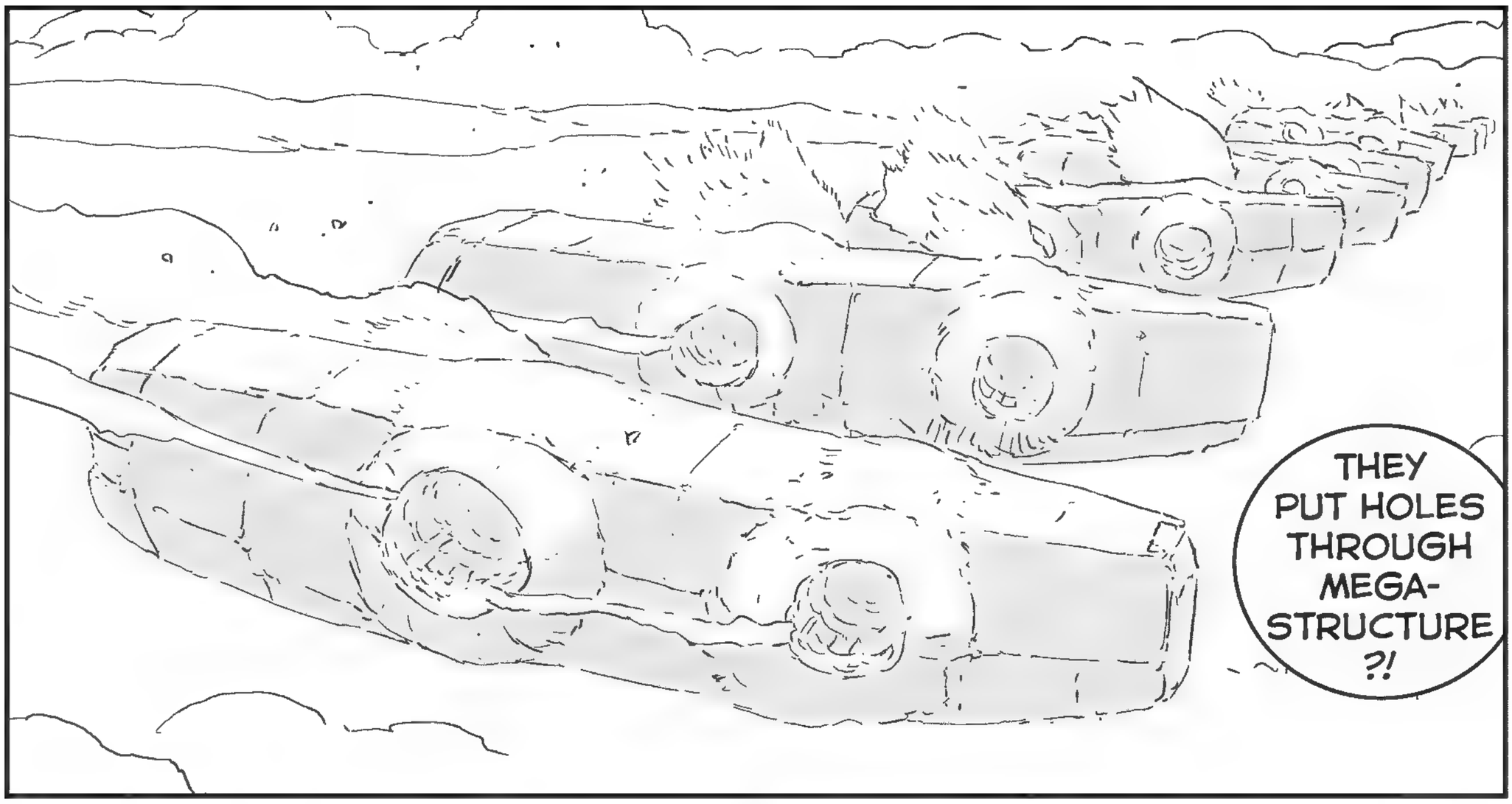

PAK


KWEEEK
CHOOM

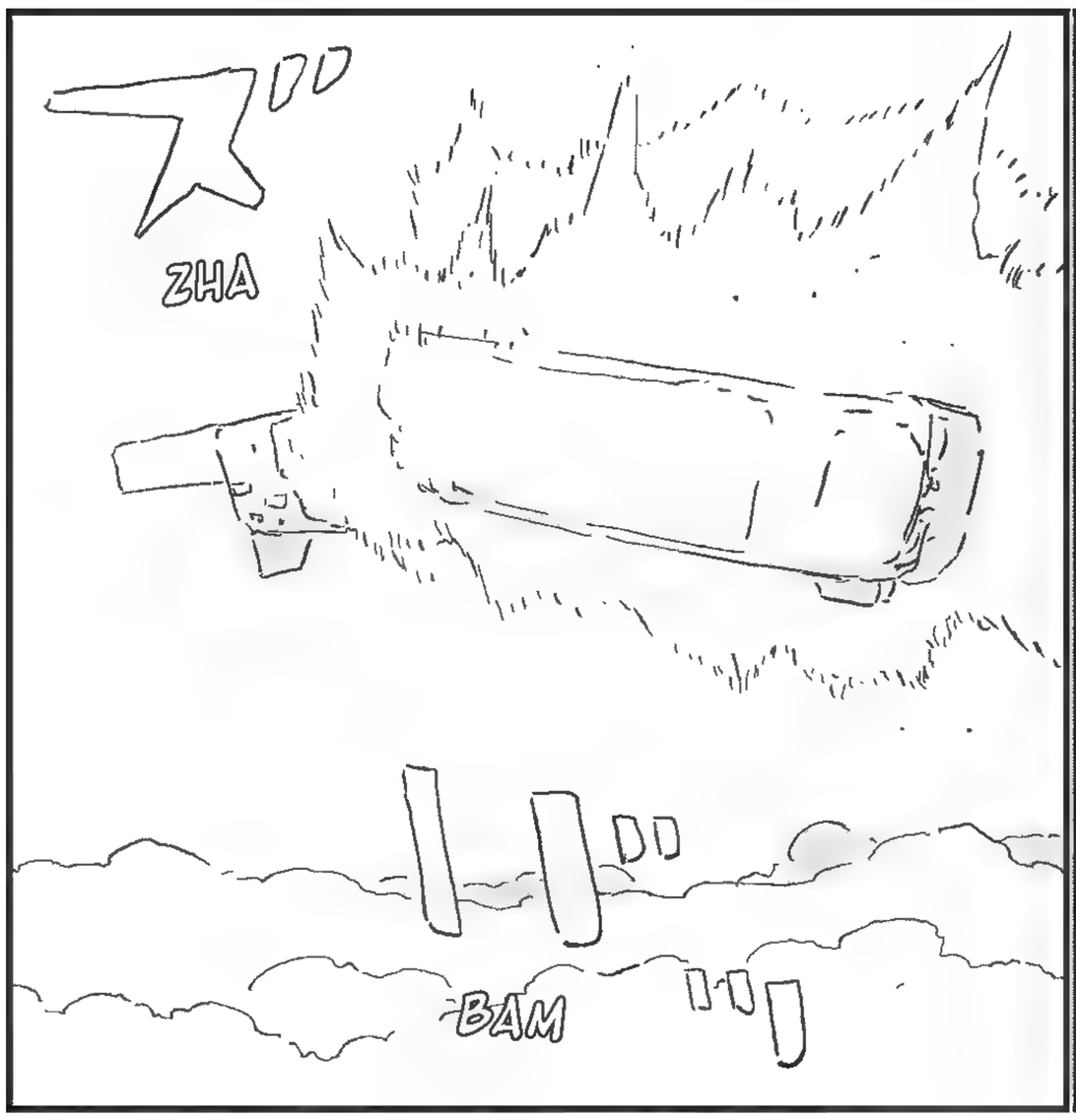




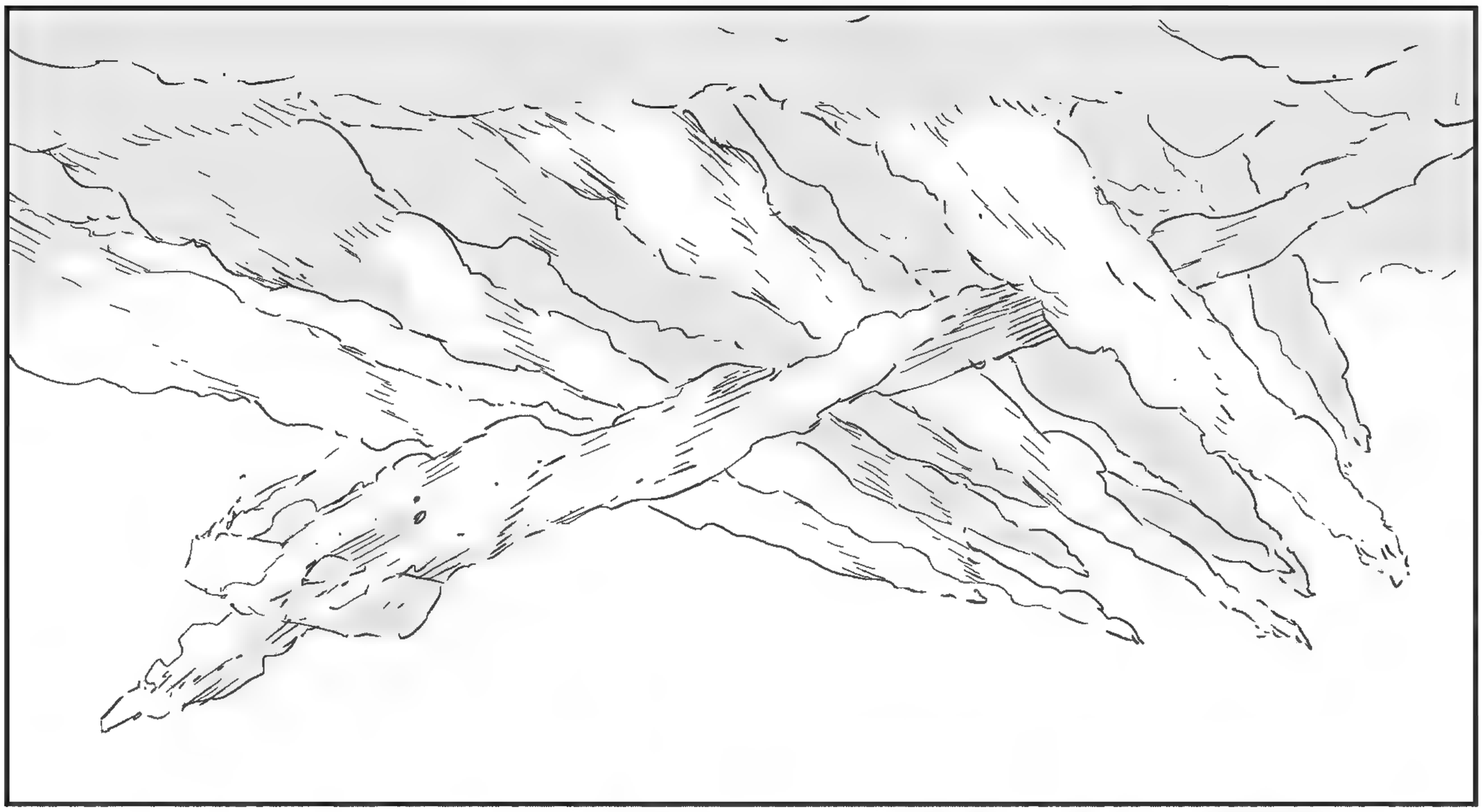
CHOOM

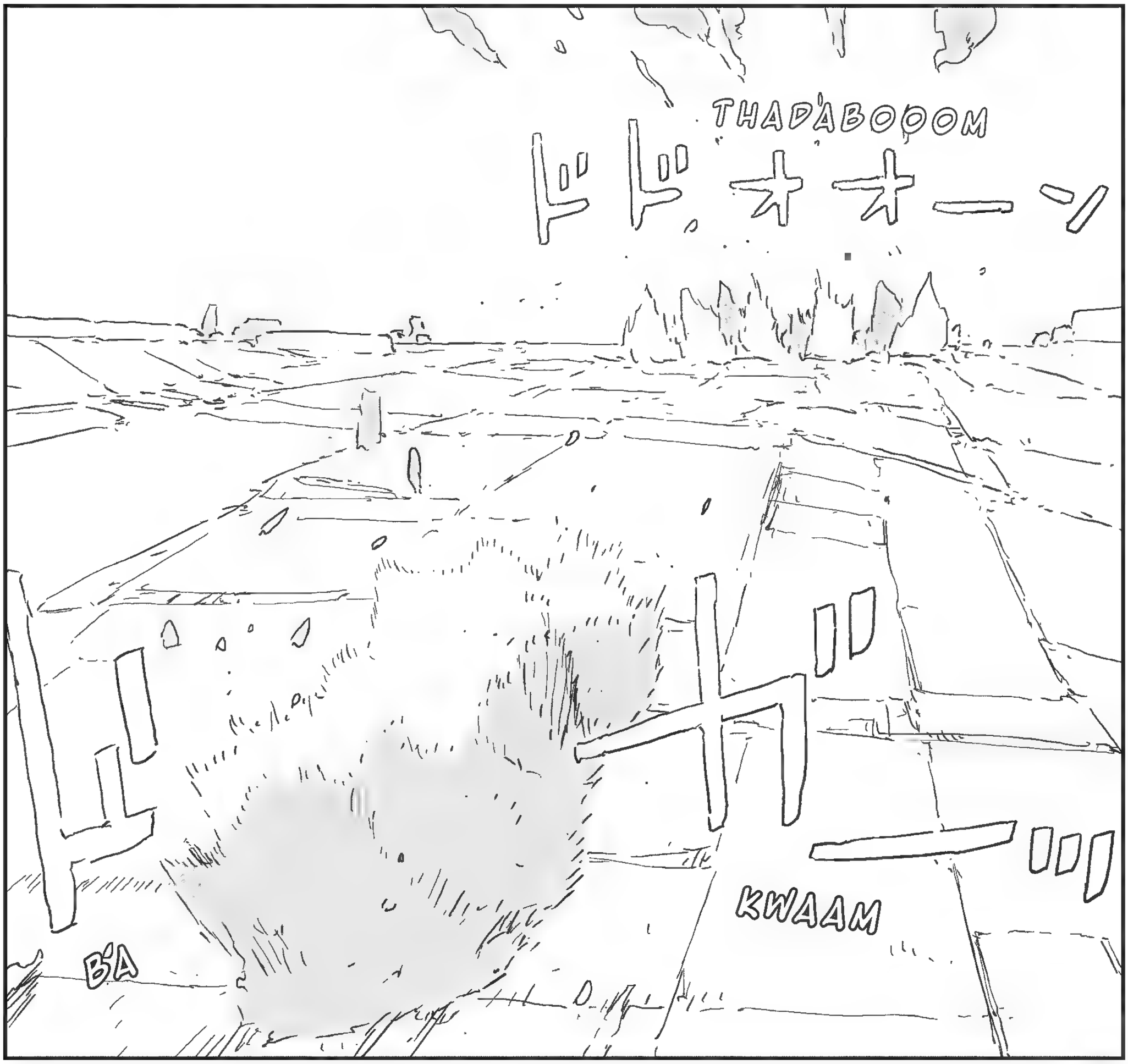

THEY PUT HOLES THROUGH MEGA-STRUCTURE ?!

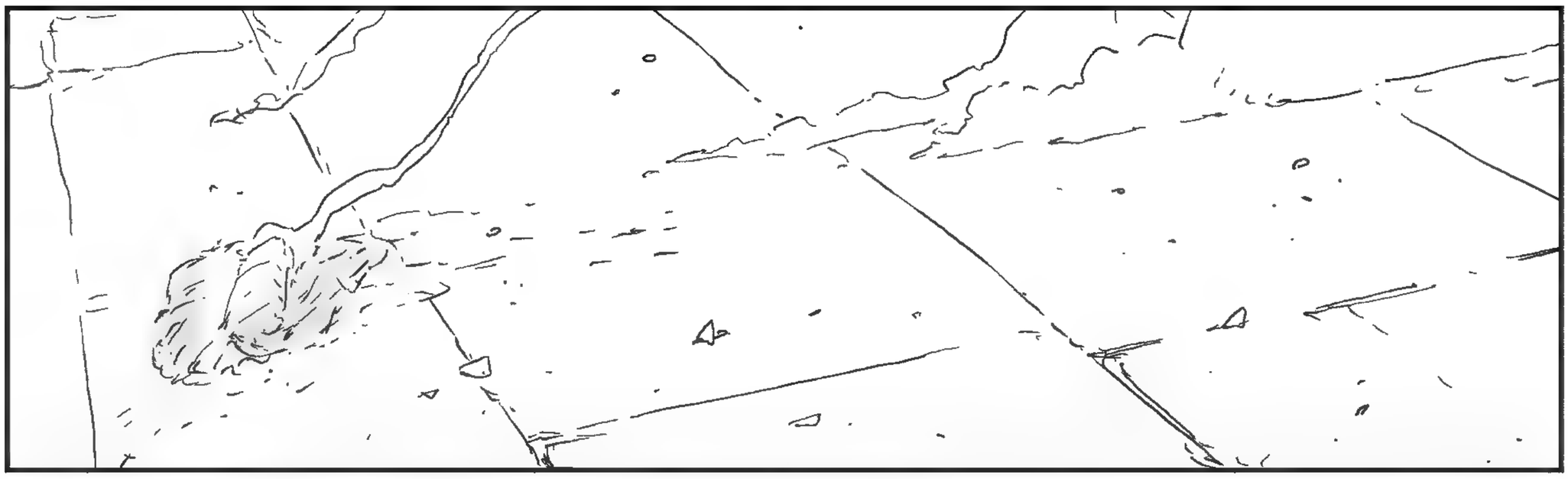
WHAT THE?!
HEAVY DAMAGE AND LOSSES!!

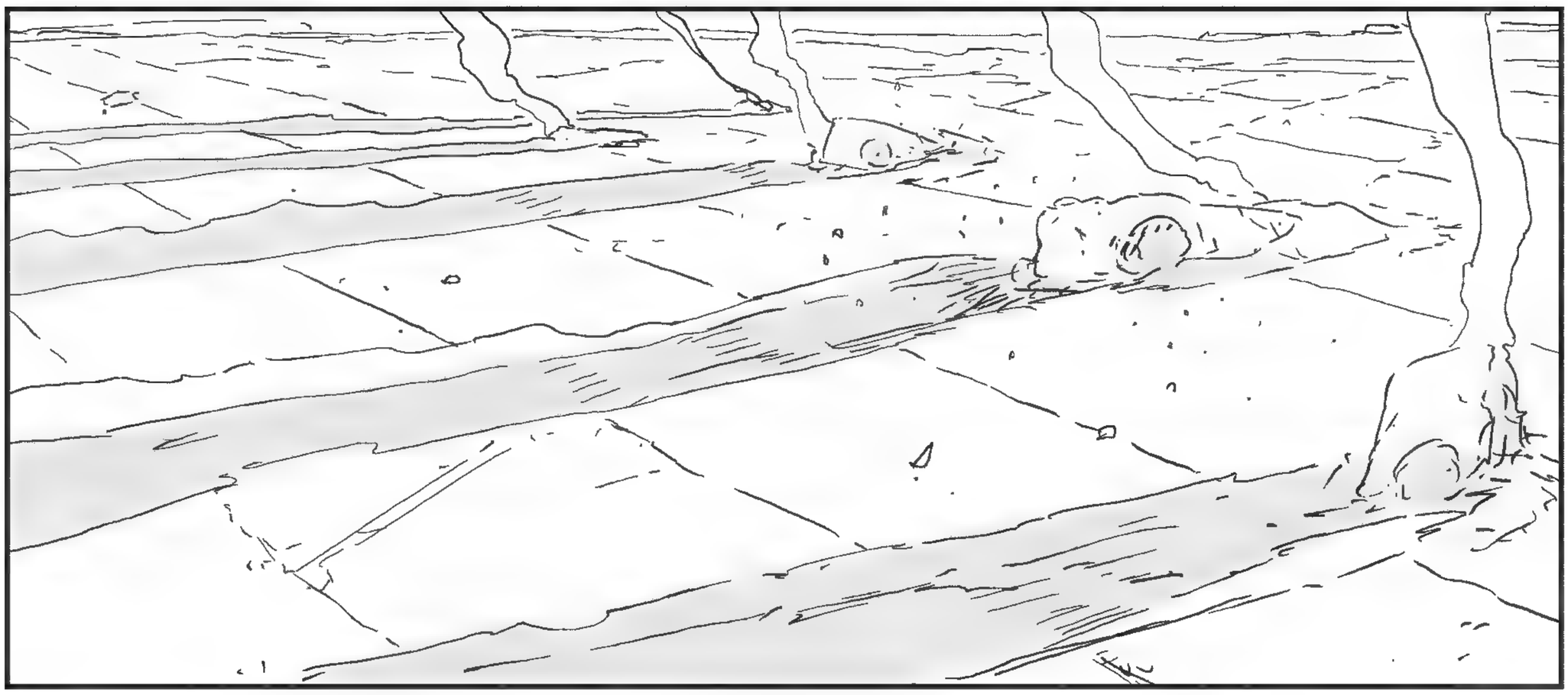

ZHA
BAM

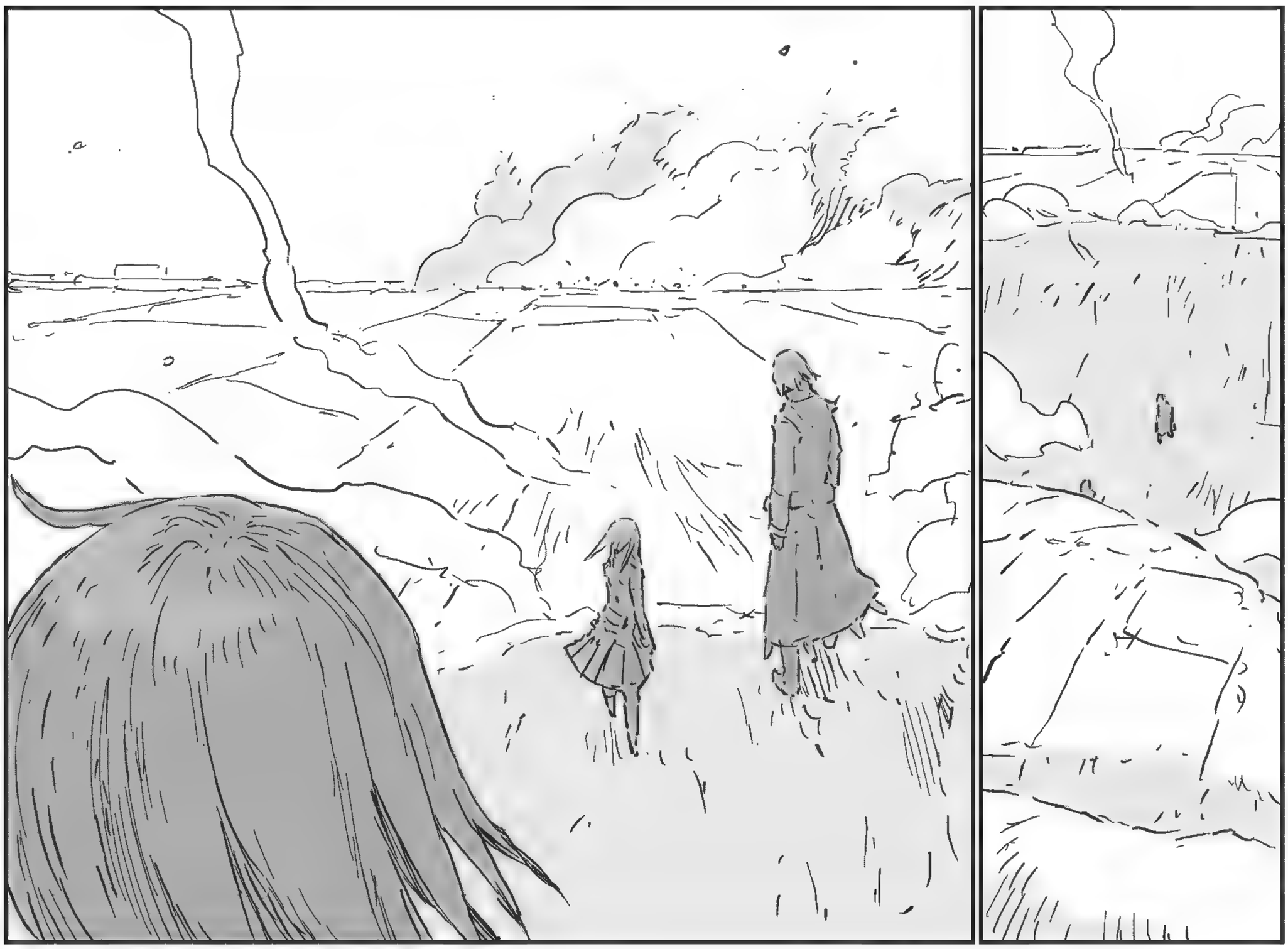
THEY USED AN AMB!
WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL!
WMM

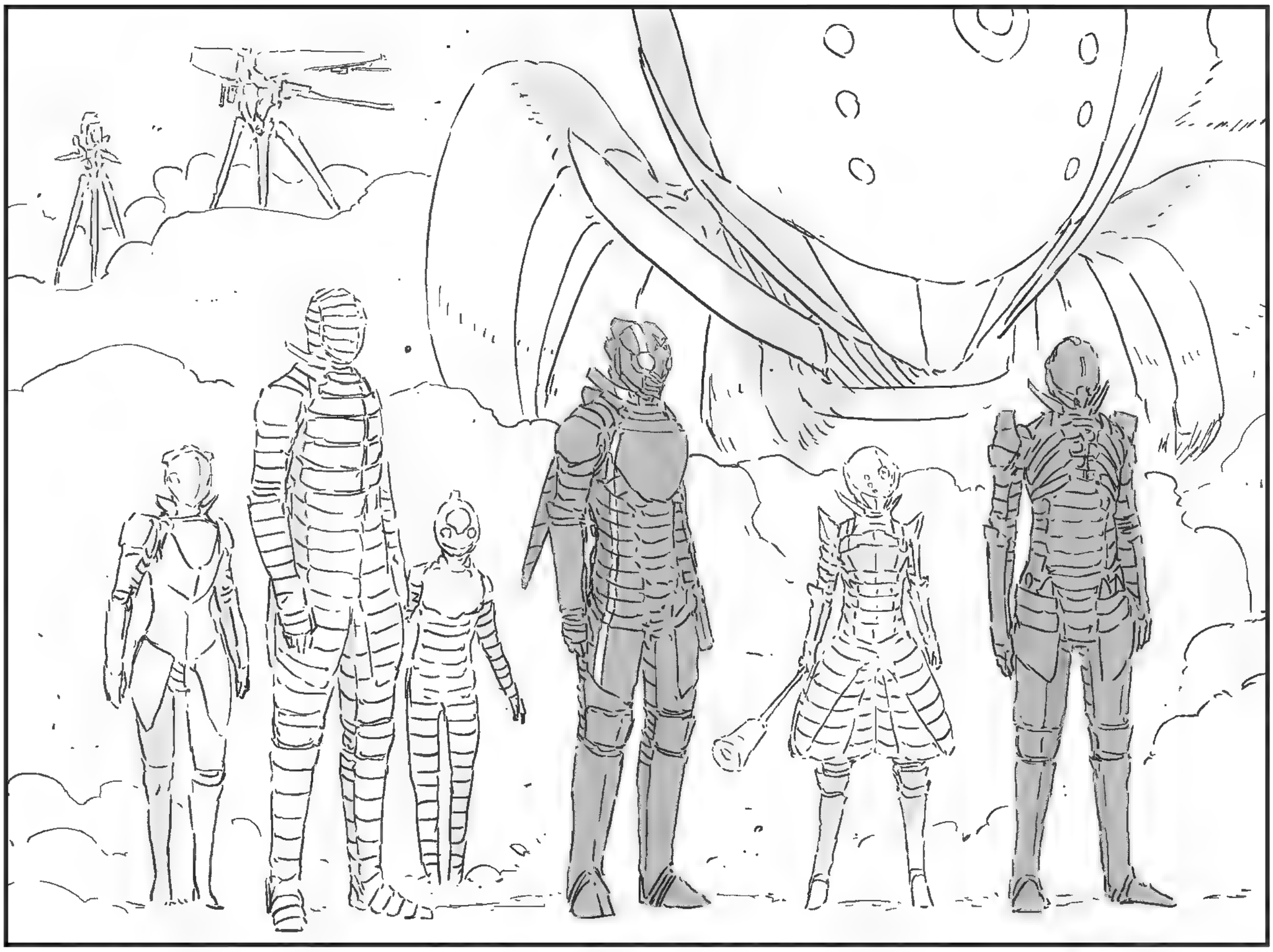


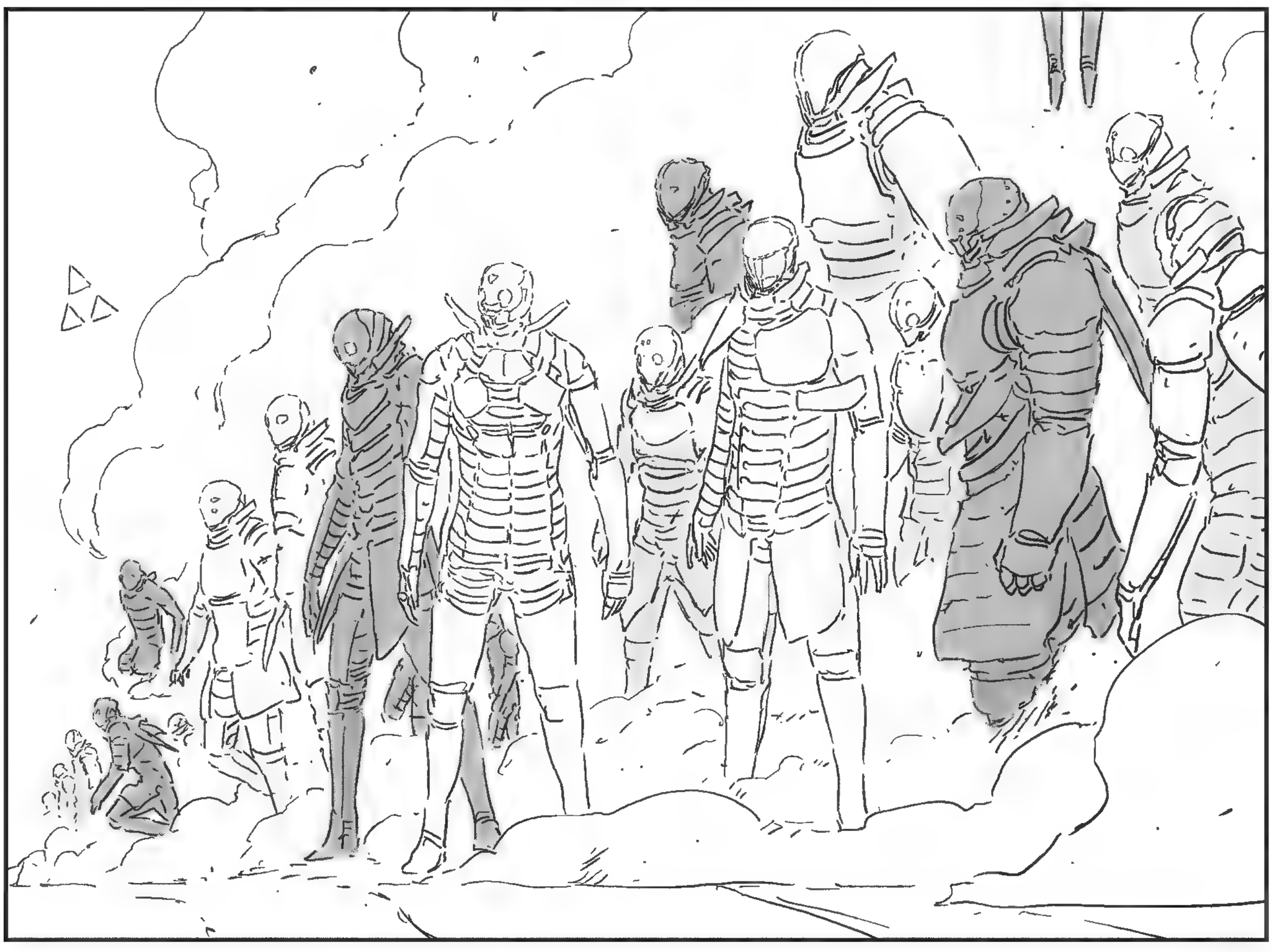

THADABOOOM
KWAAM
BA

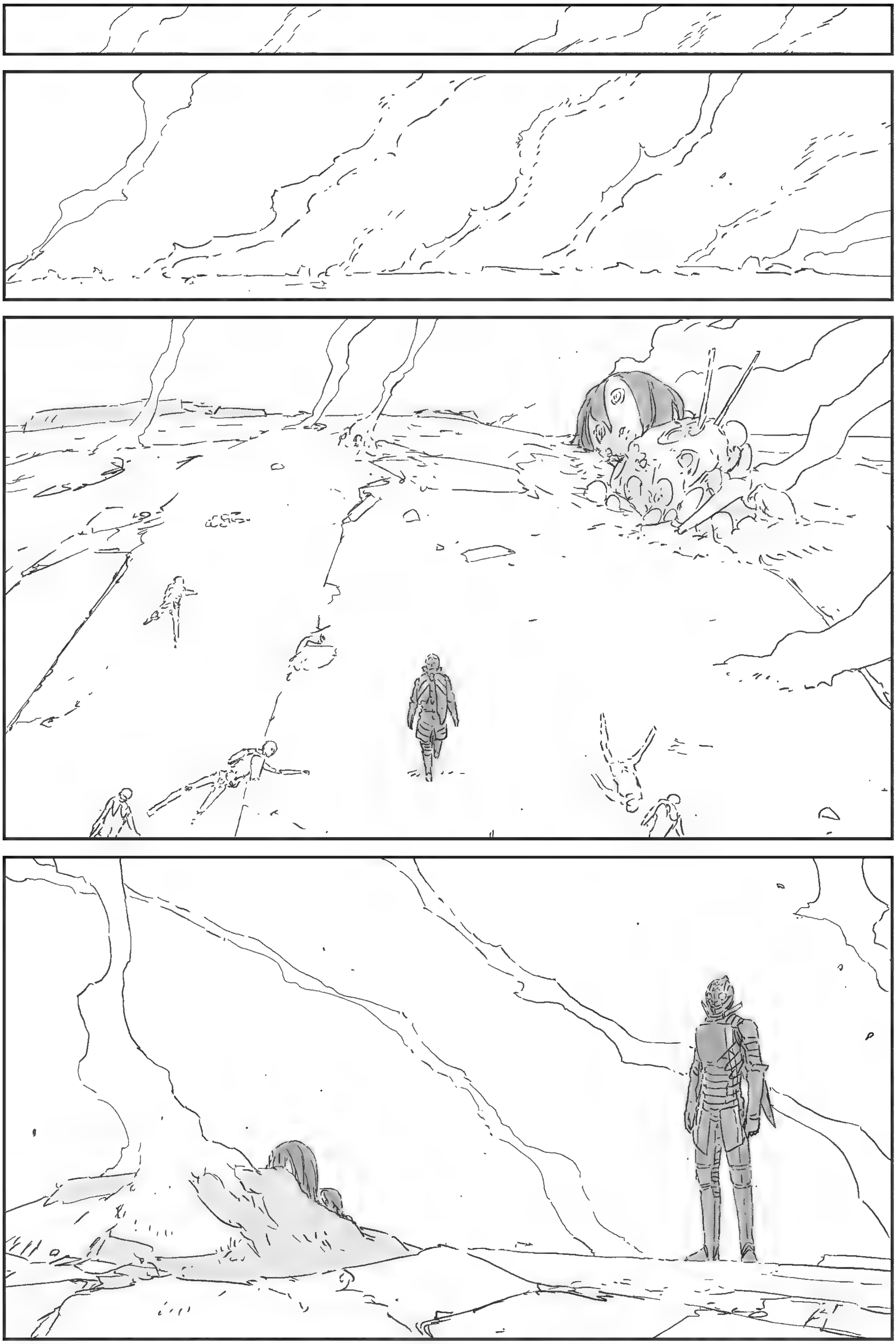


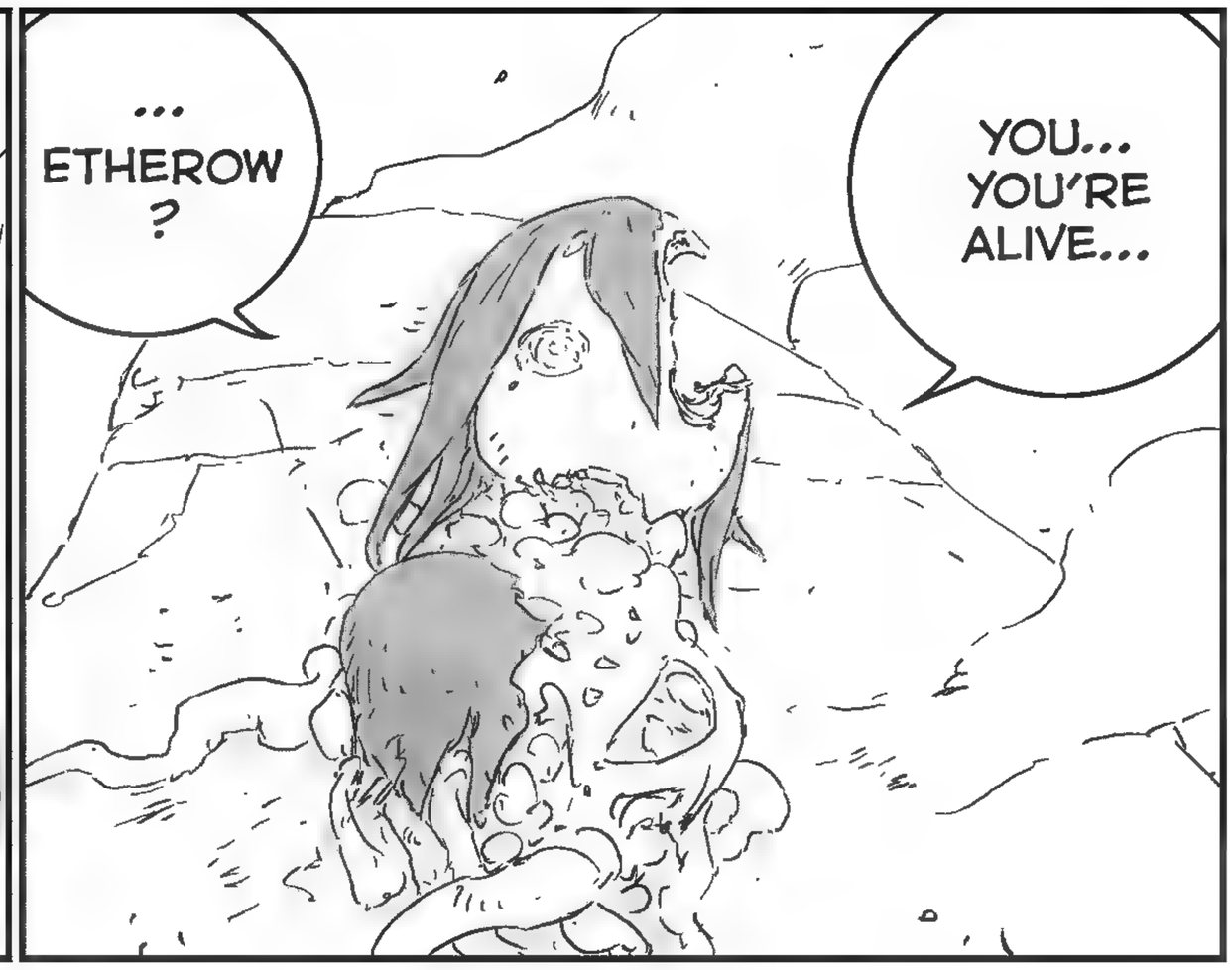


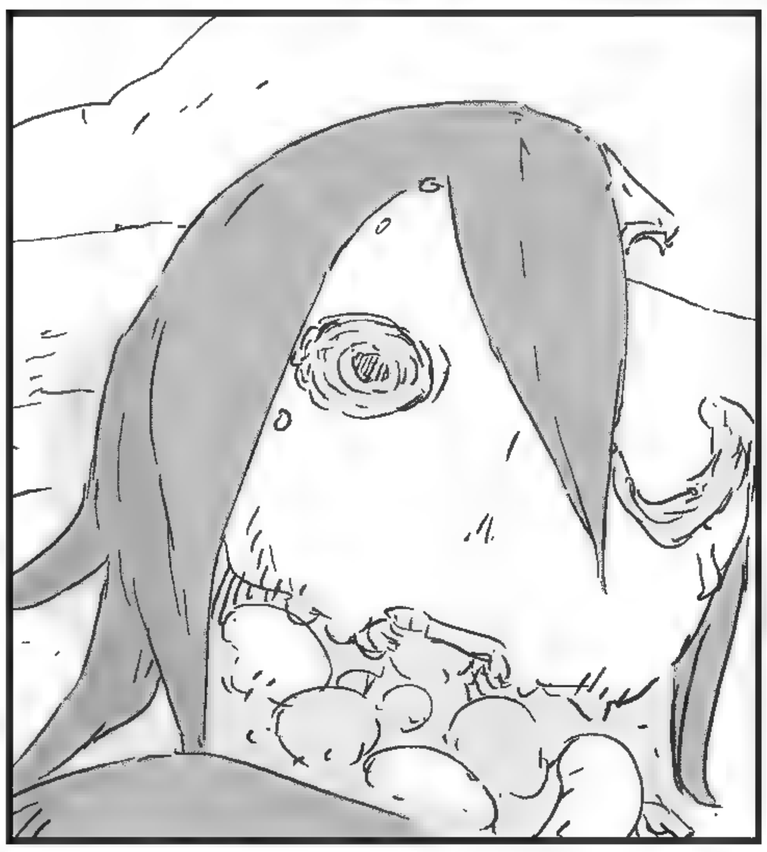


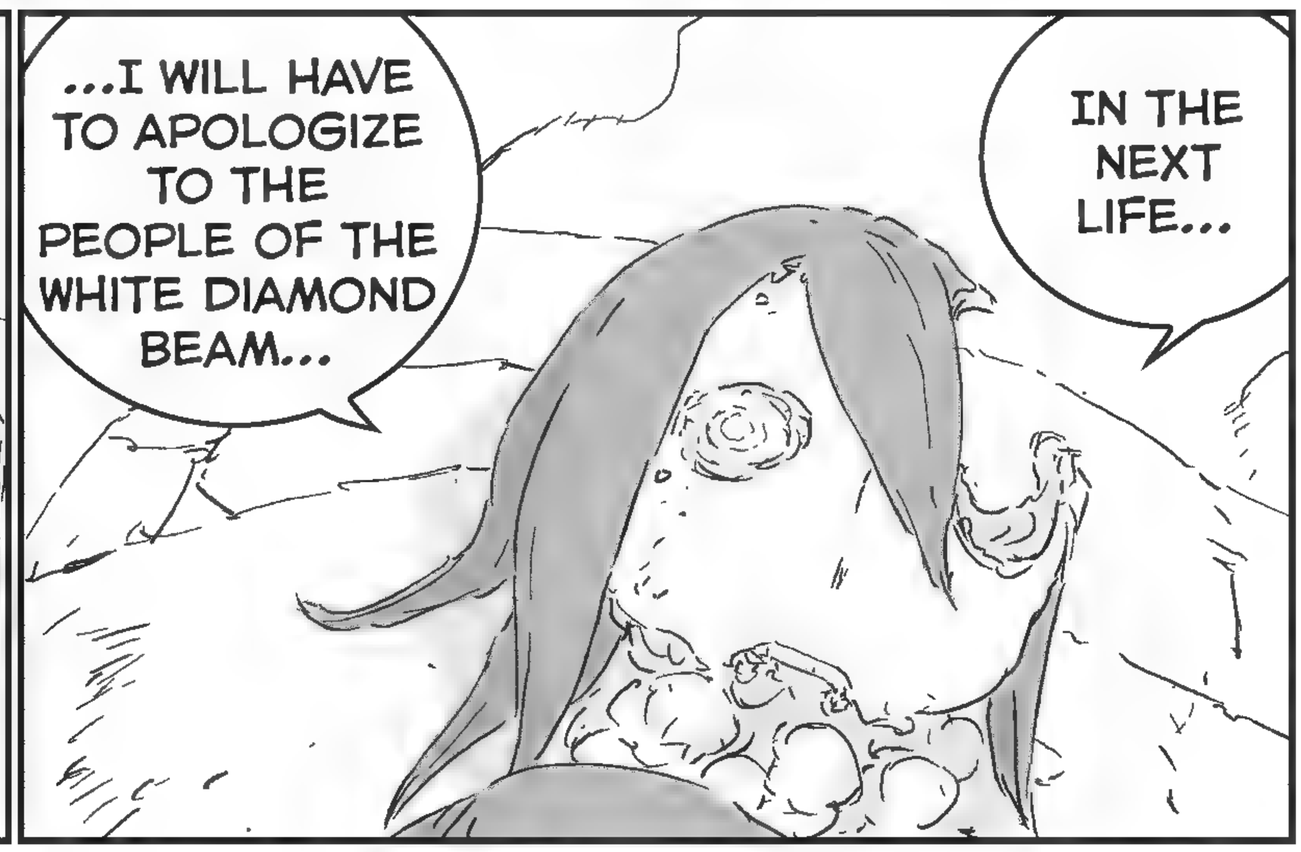


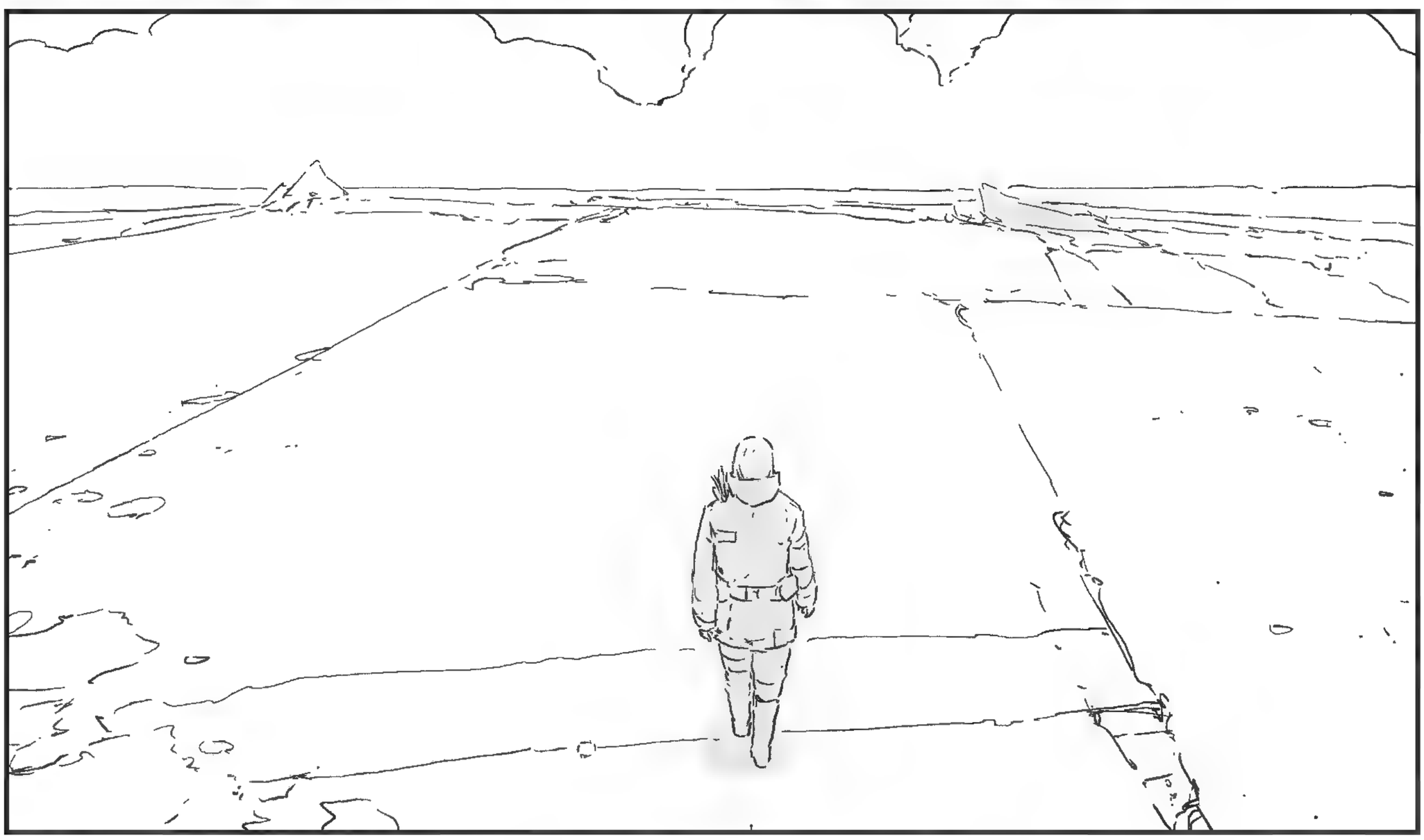








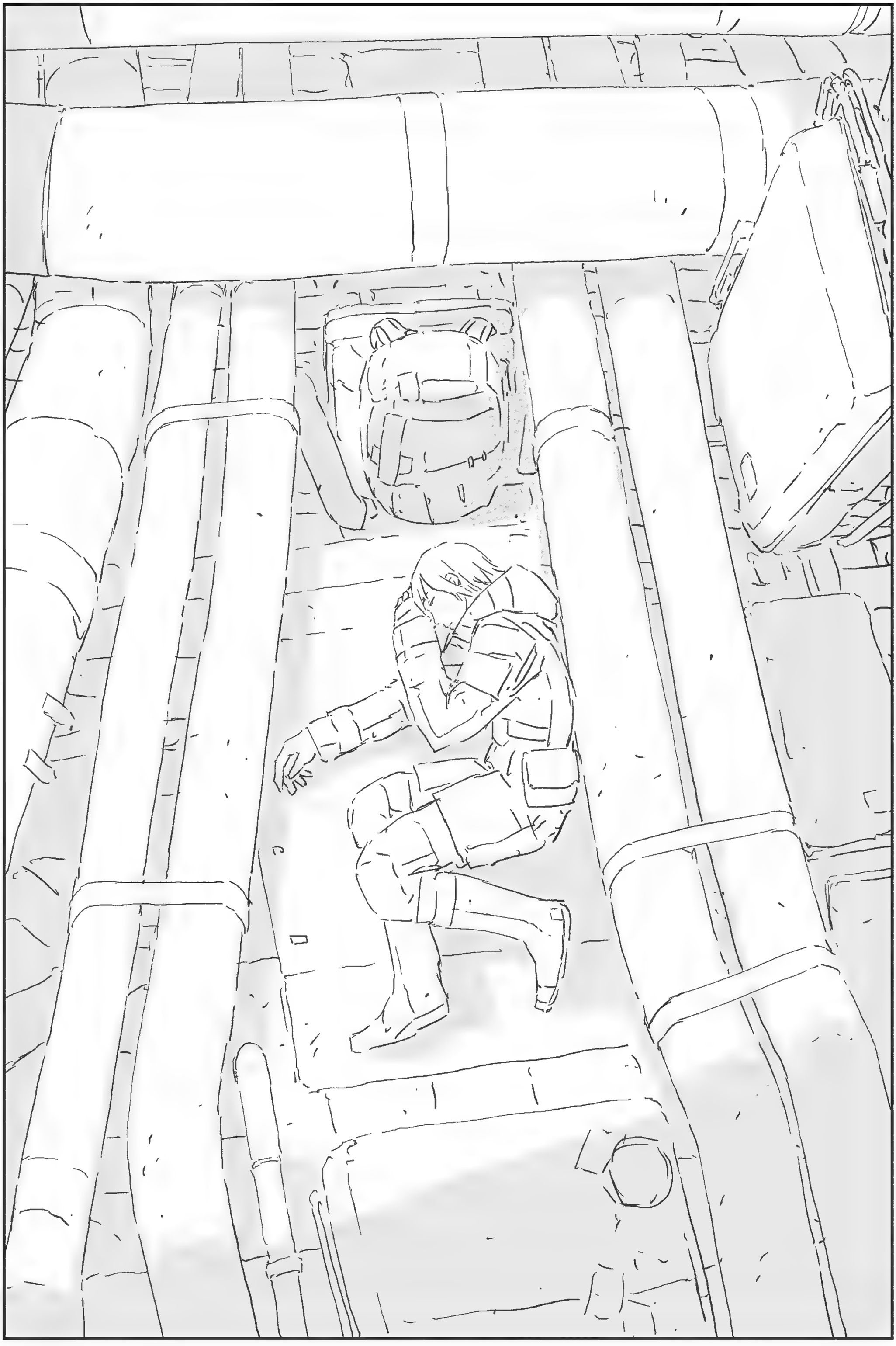


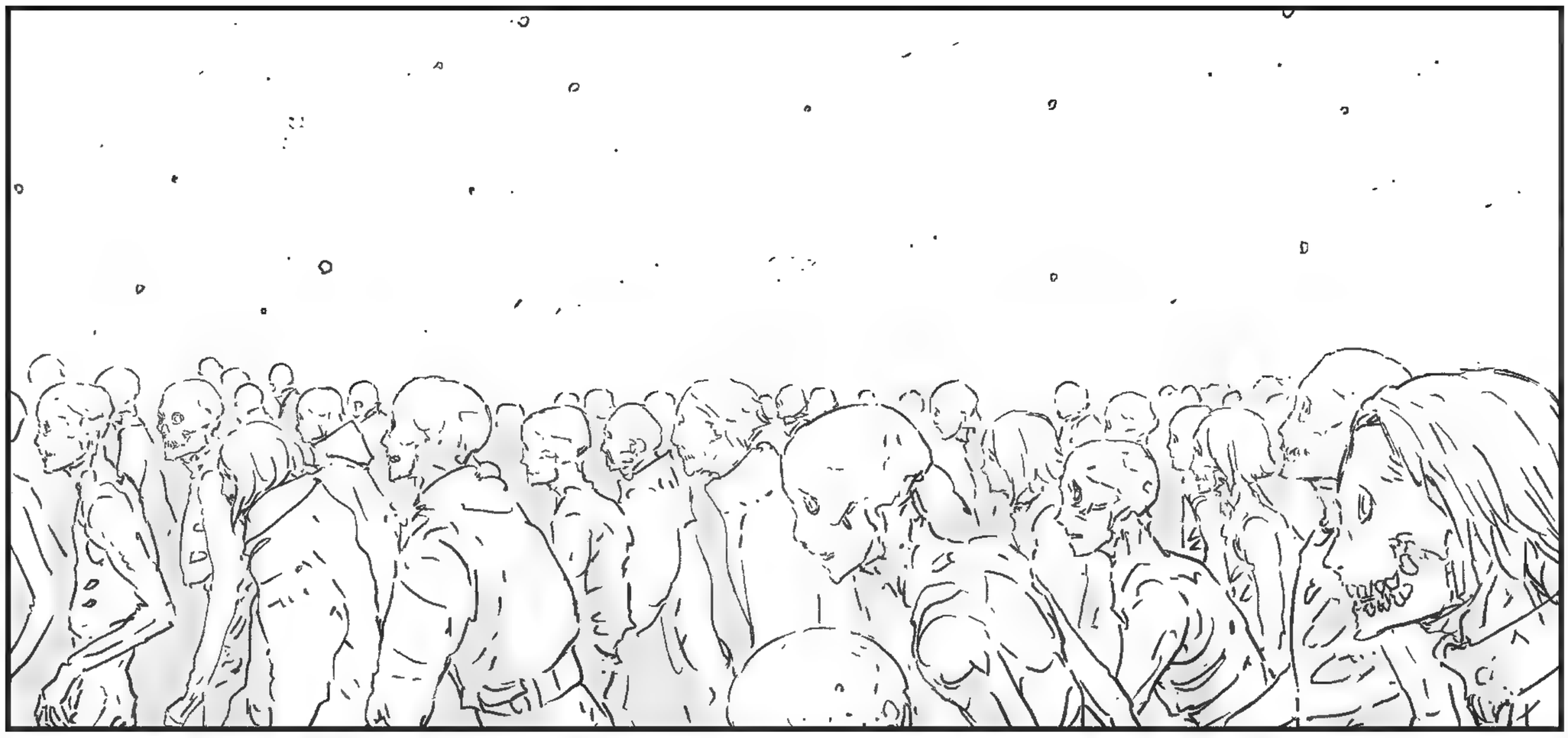


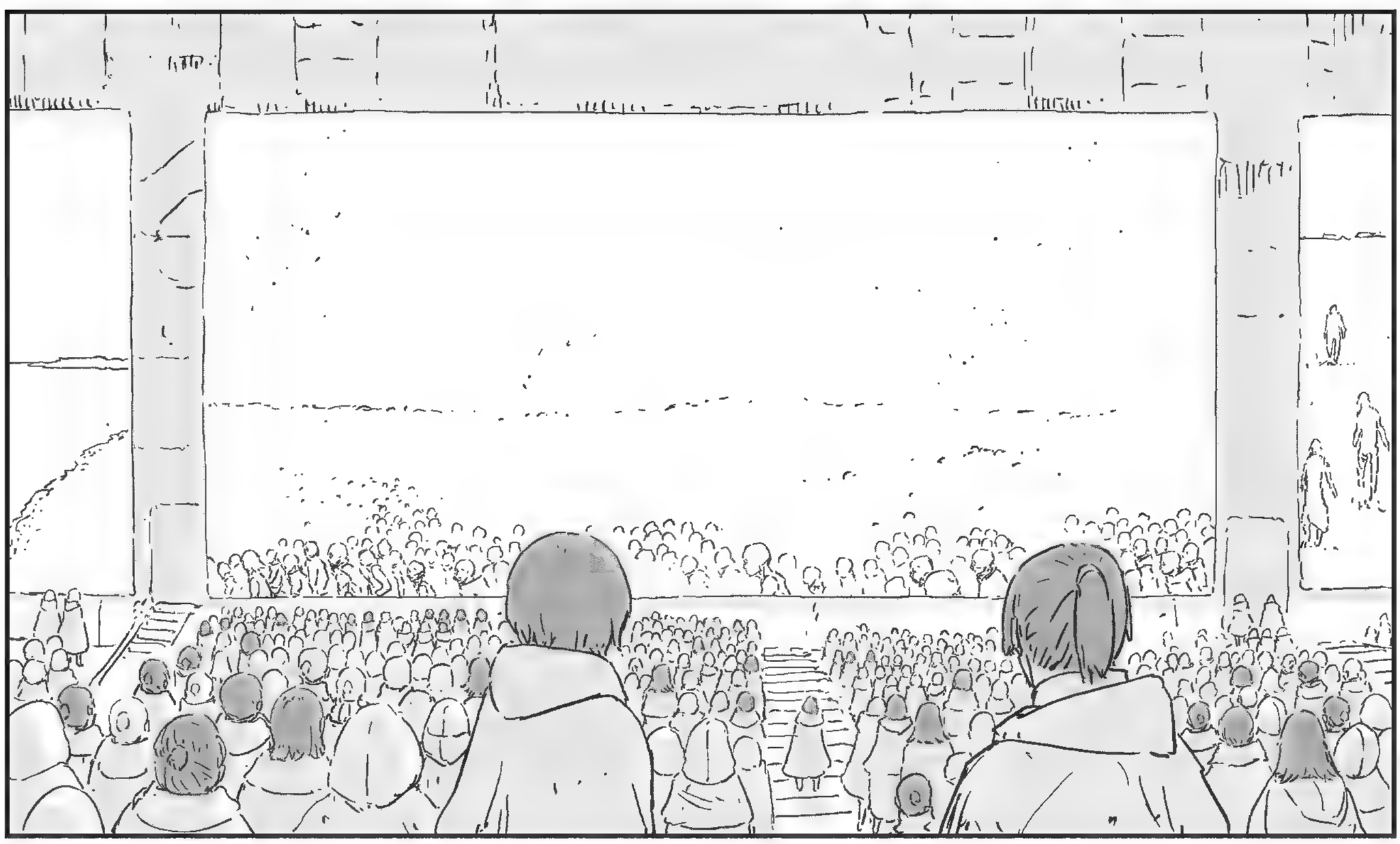
CHAPTER 52 END

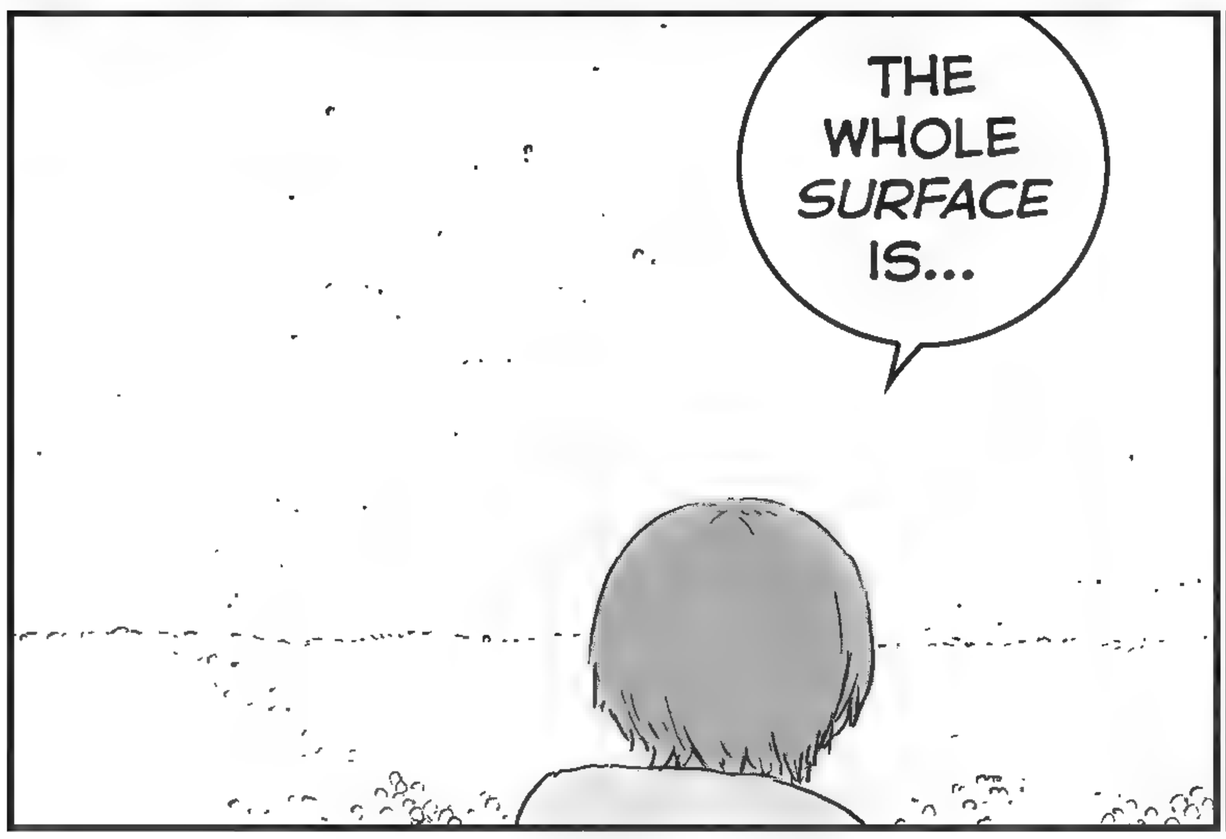
APOSIMZ

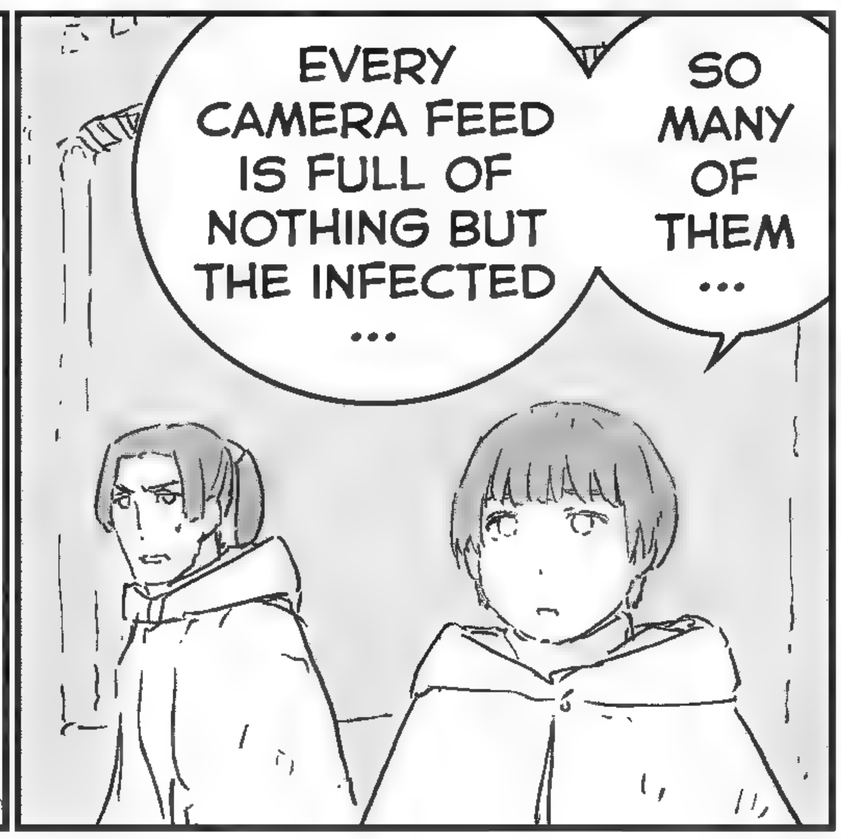
CHAPTER 53

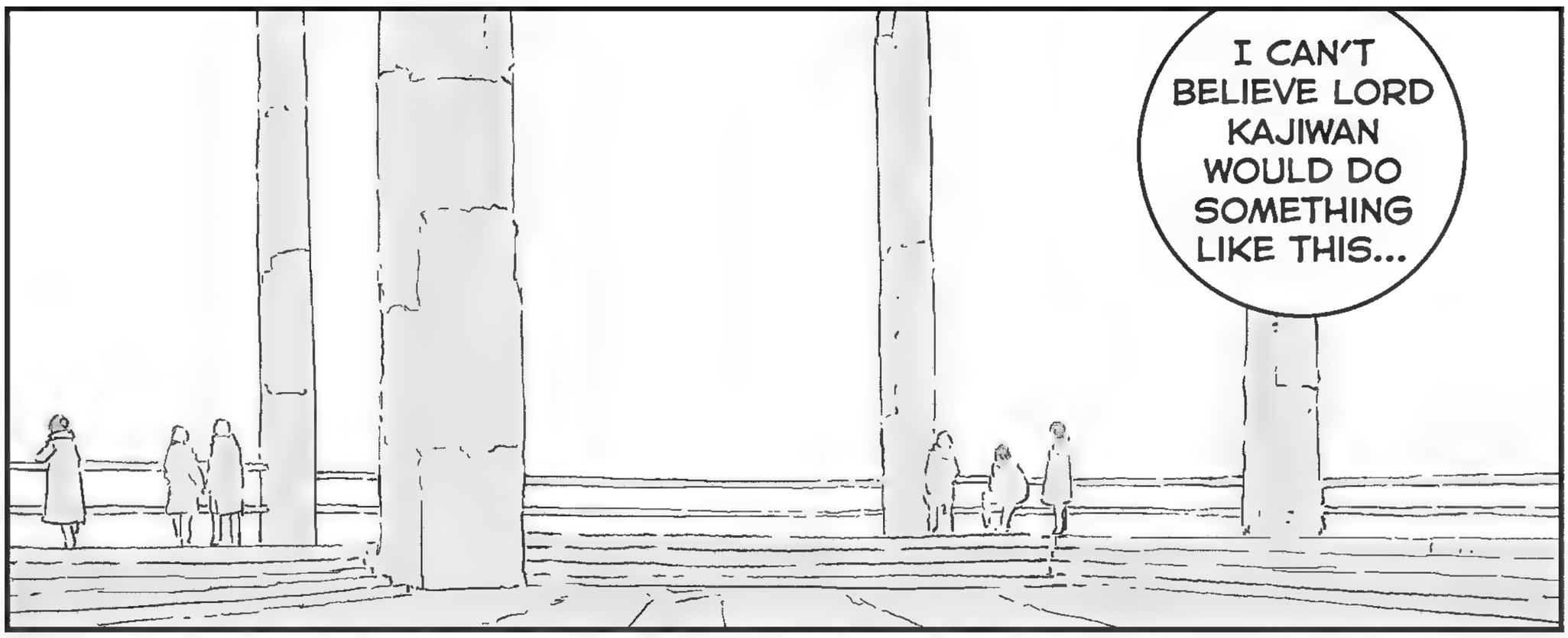






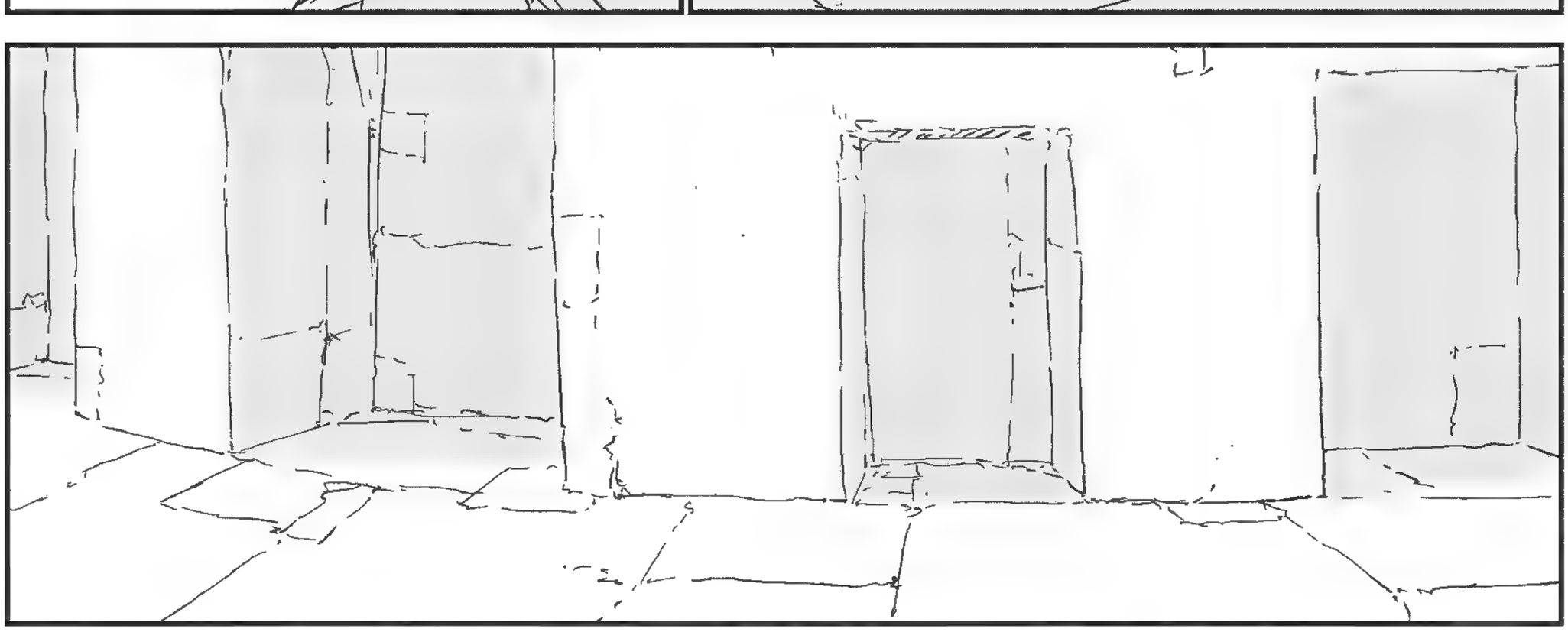

THE WHOLE *SURFACE* IS...

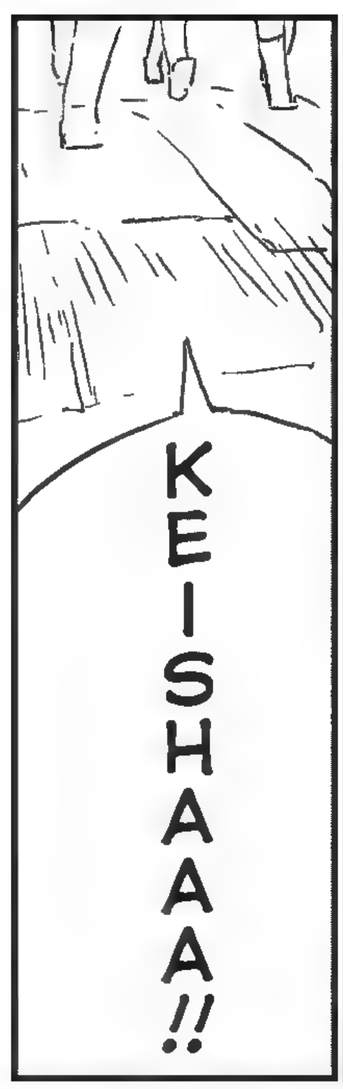

EVERY CAMERA FEED IS FULL OF NOTHING BUT THE INFECTED ...
SO MANY OF THEM ...

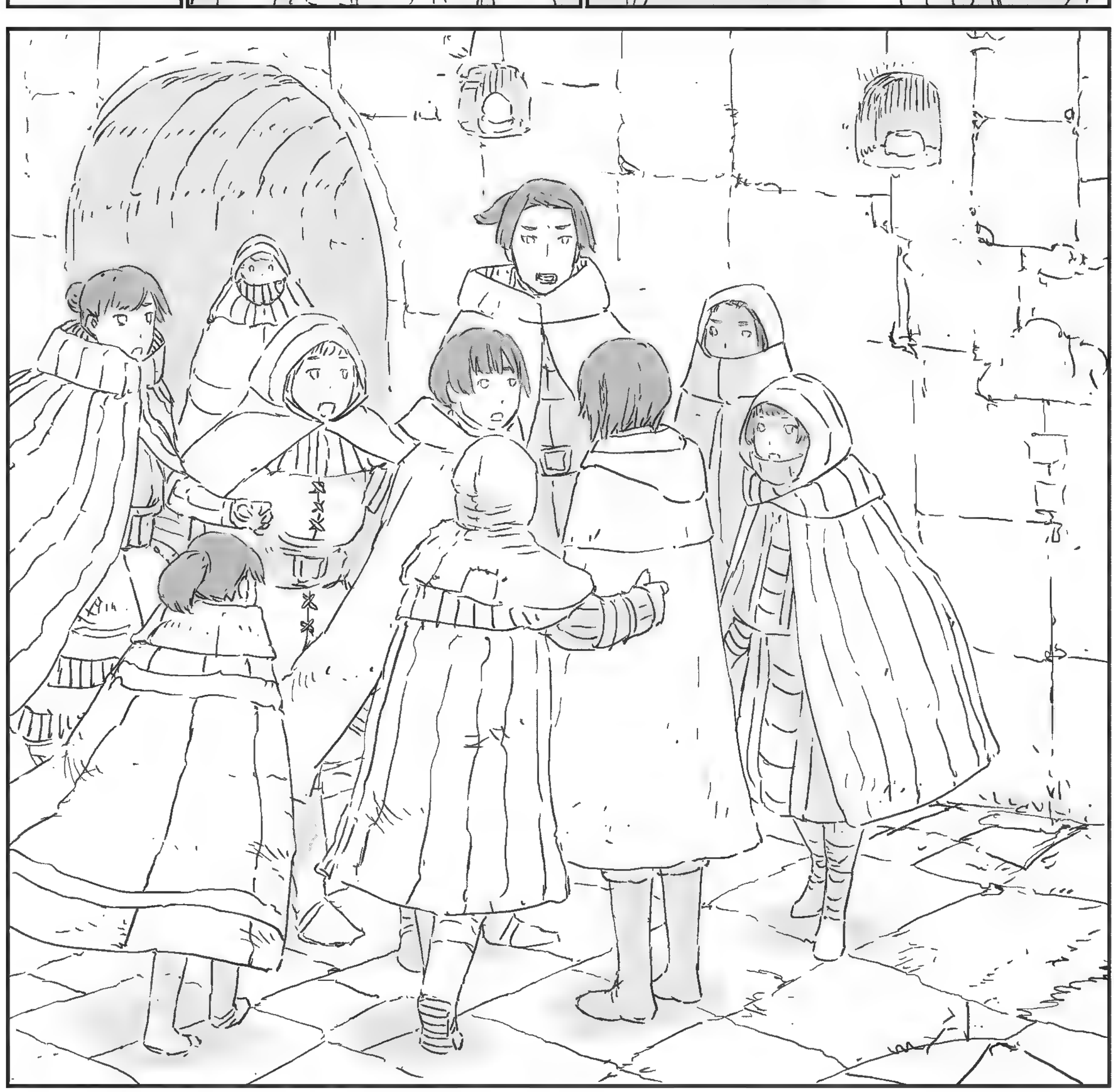

I CAN'T BELIEVE LORD KAJIWAN WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

AND ONCE IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS GOING TO LOSE, HE USED HIS ALLIES AS REINFORCE-MENTS...
HE HIMSELF CHALLENGED THE HEAD OF THE EMPIRE TO ONE-ON-ONE COMBAT,
I NEVER KNEW HE WAS THAT KIND OF PERSON.

YOU PEOPLE AREN'T TO BLAME.
LIKE I SAID, THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE.
I'M TRULY SORRY.

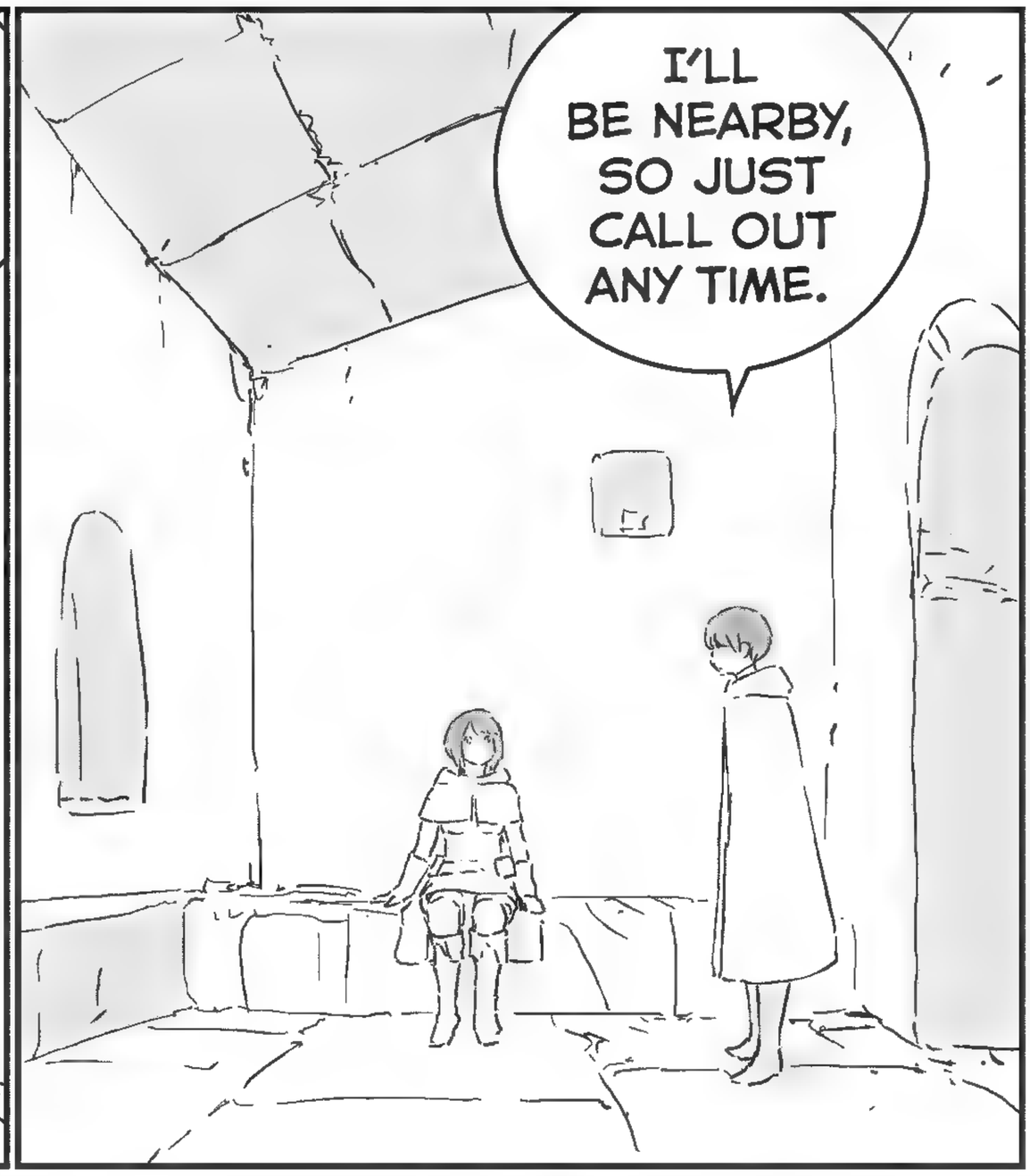


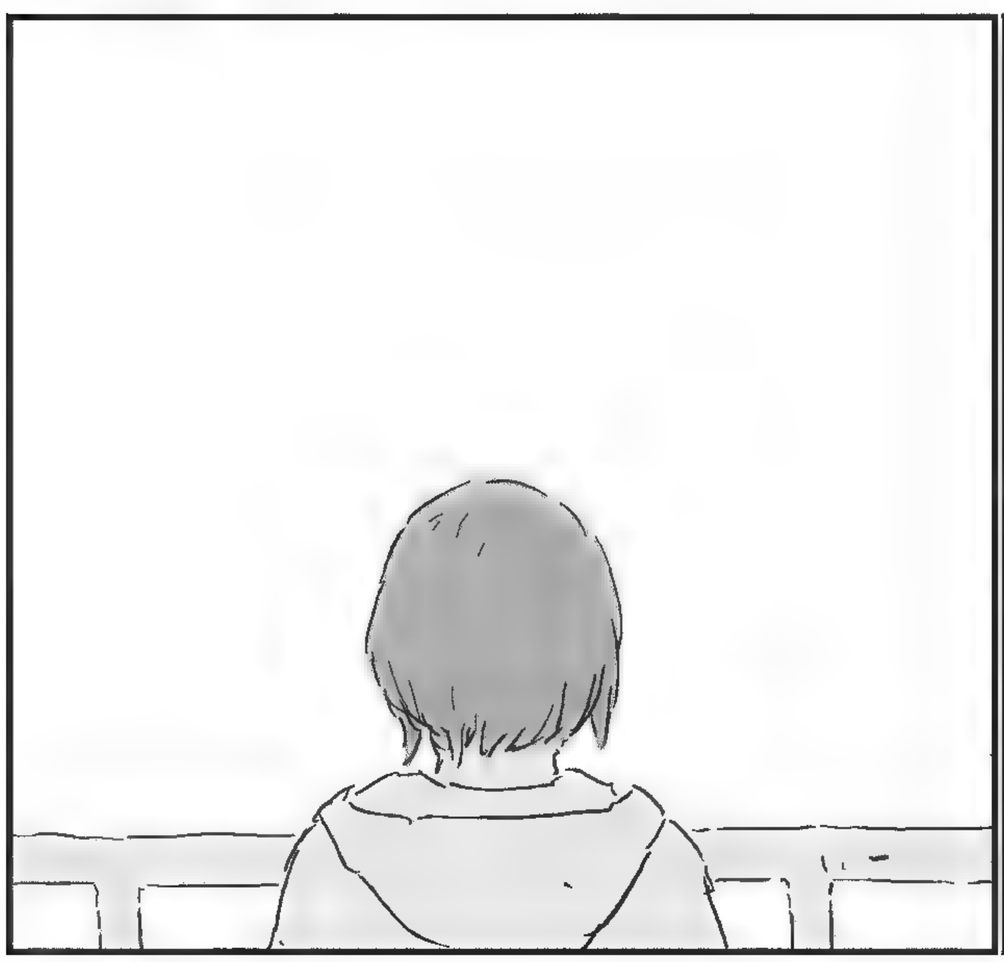

KEISHAAA!!

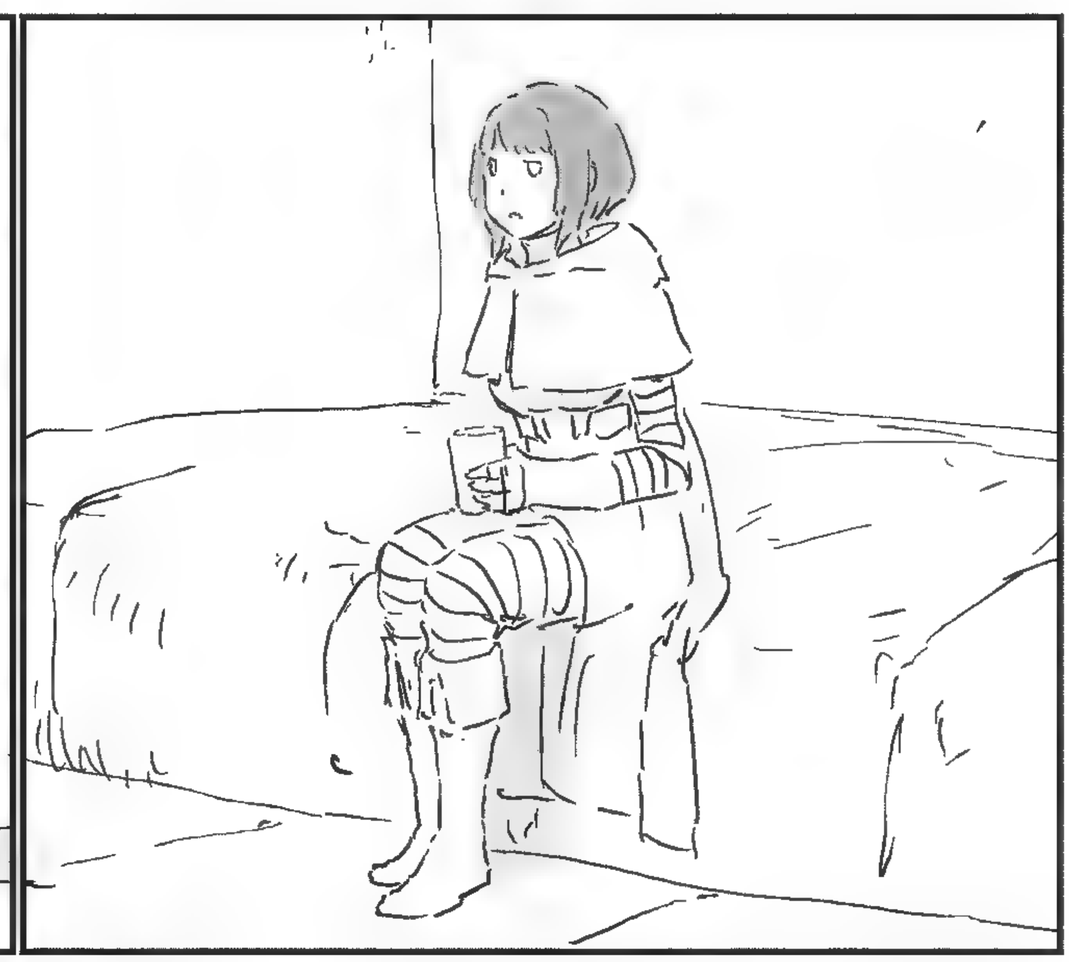


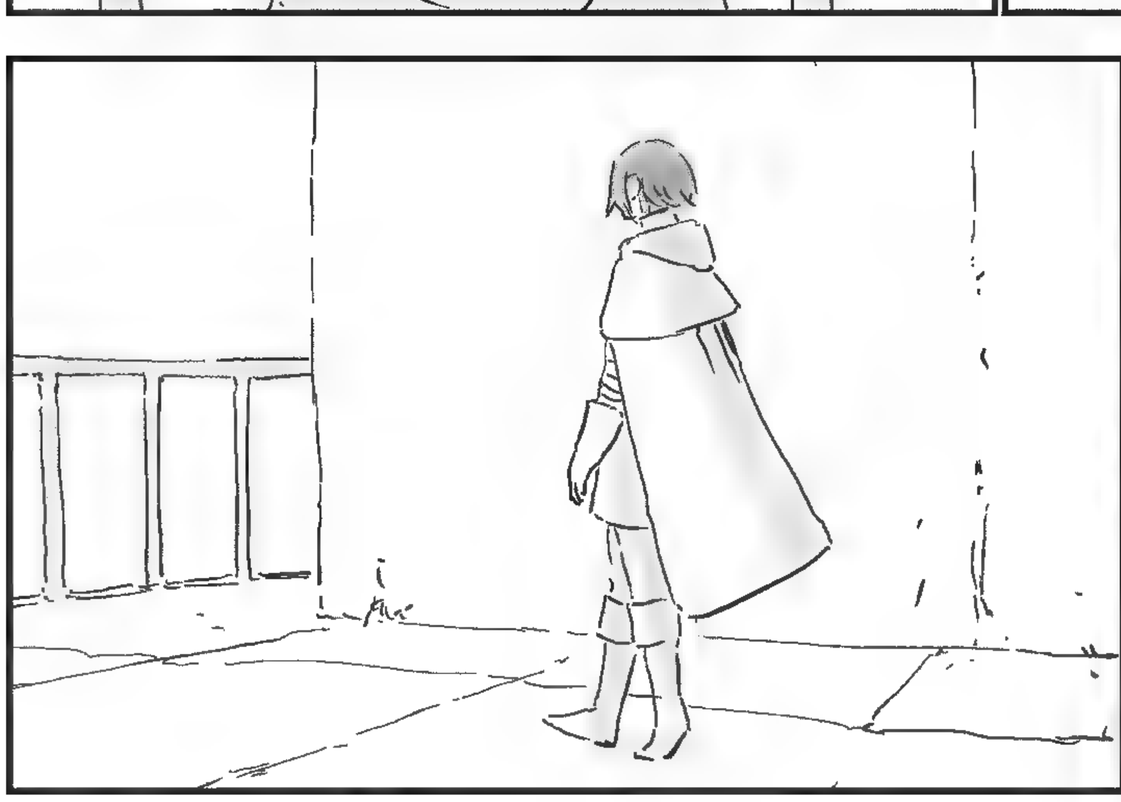
FATHER ...
THIS IS TOHSHA'S GREAT-GRAND-DAUGHTER KEISHA.
TOHSHA, YOU HAVE DONE VERY WELL.
YOU DON'T KNOW YET, DO YOU?
SHE'S RIGHT. IT TOOK ME DAYS BEFORE I UNDERSTOOD OUR SITUATION HERE.
LET'S LET HER REST FOR A BIT.
LISTEN EVERYONE, KEISHA HAS ONLY JUST ARRIVED.

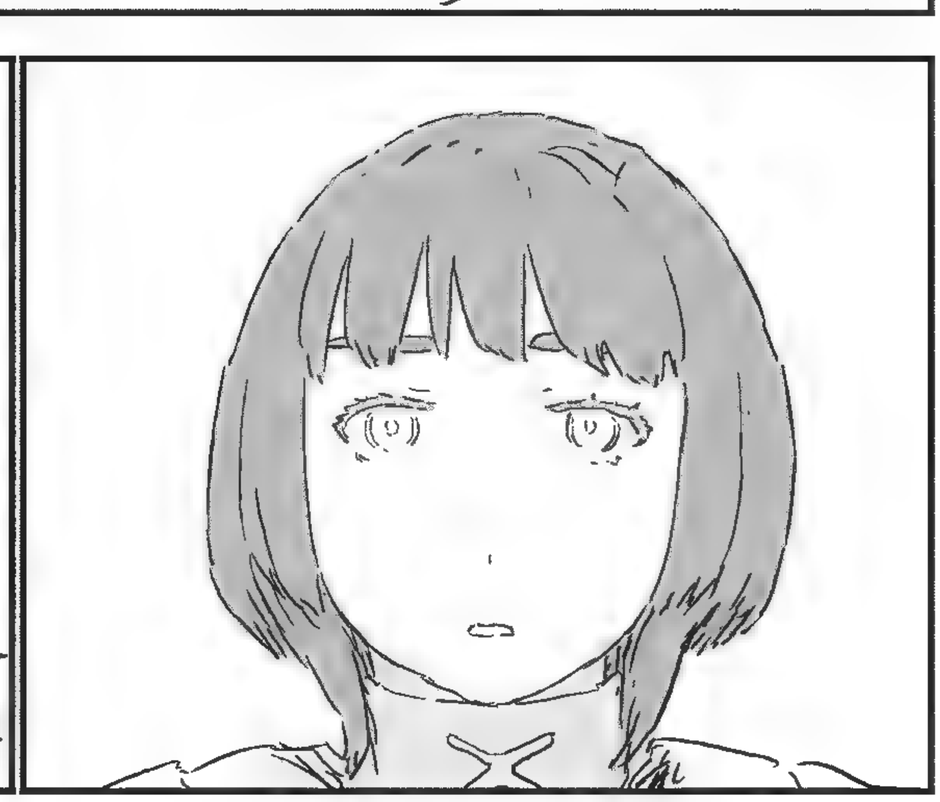
WE'VE GOT LOTS OF DIFFERENT DRINKS HERE!
KEISHA! THIS IS DELICIOUS! DRINK SOME!


I'LL BE NEARBY, SO JUST CALL OUT ANY TIME.

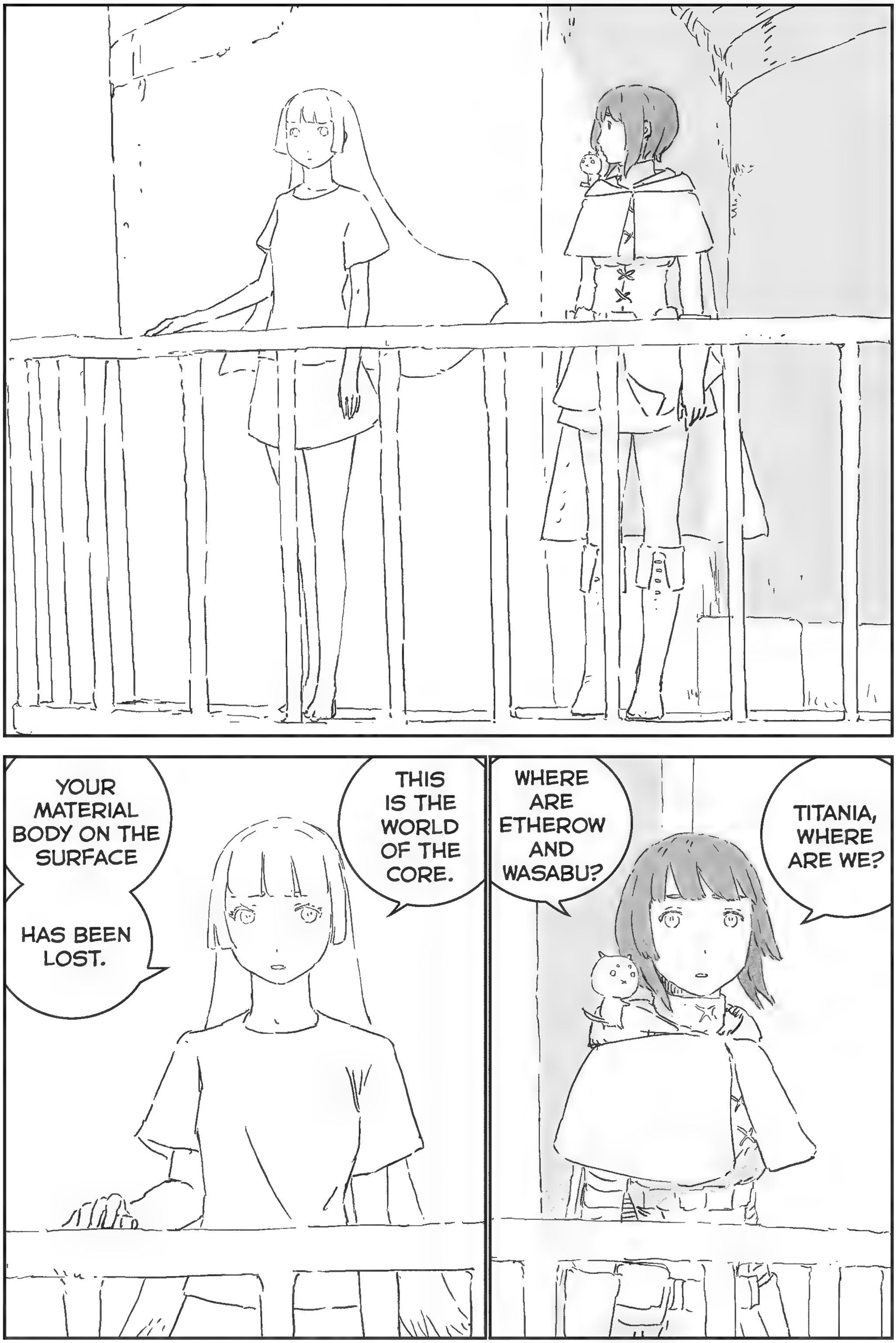


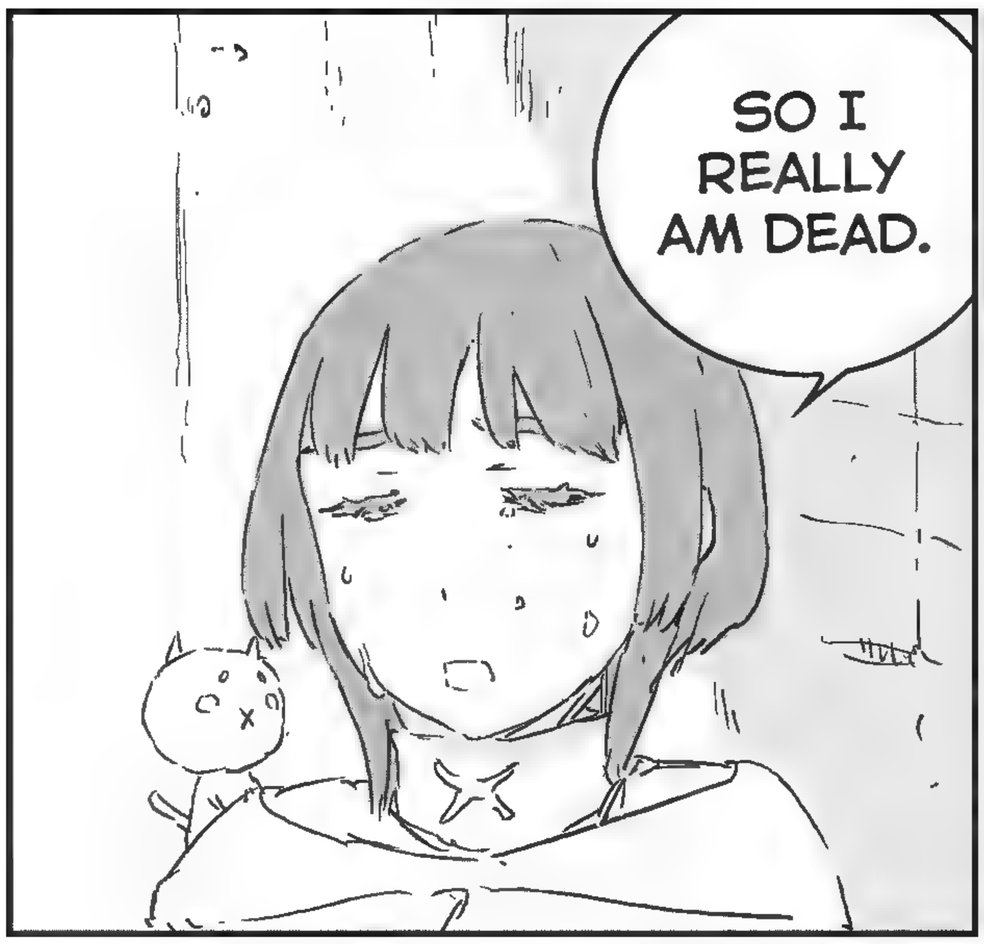




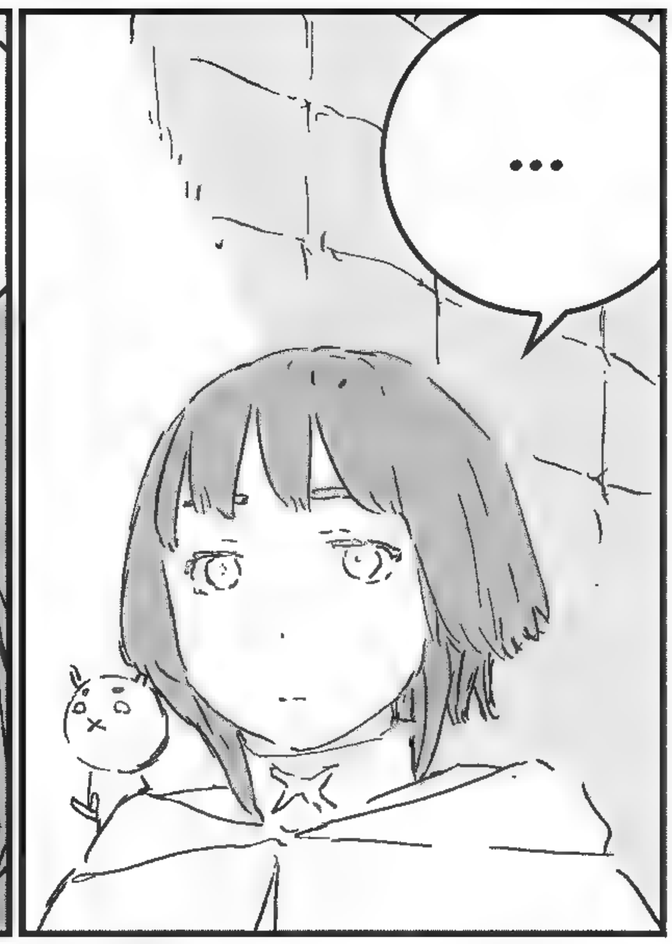


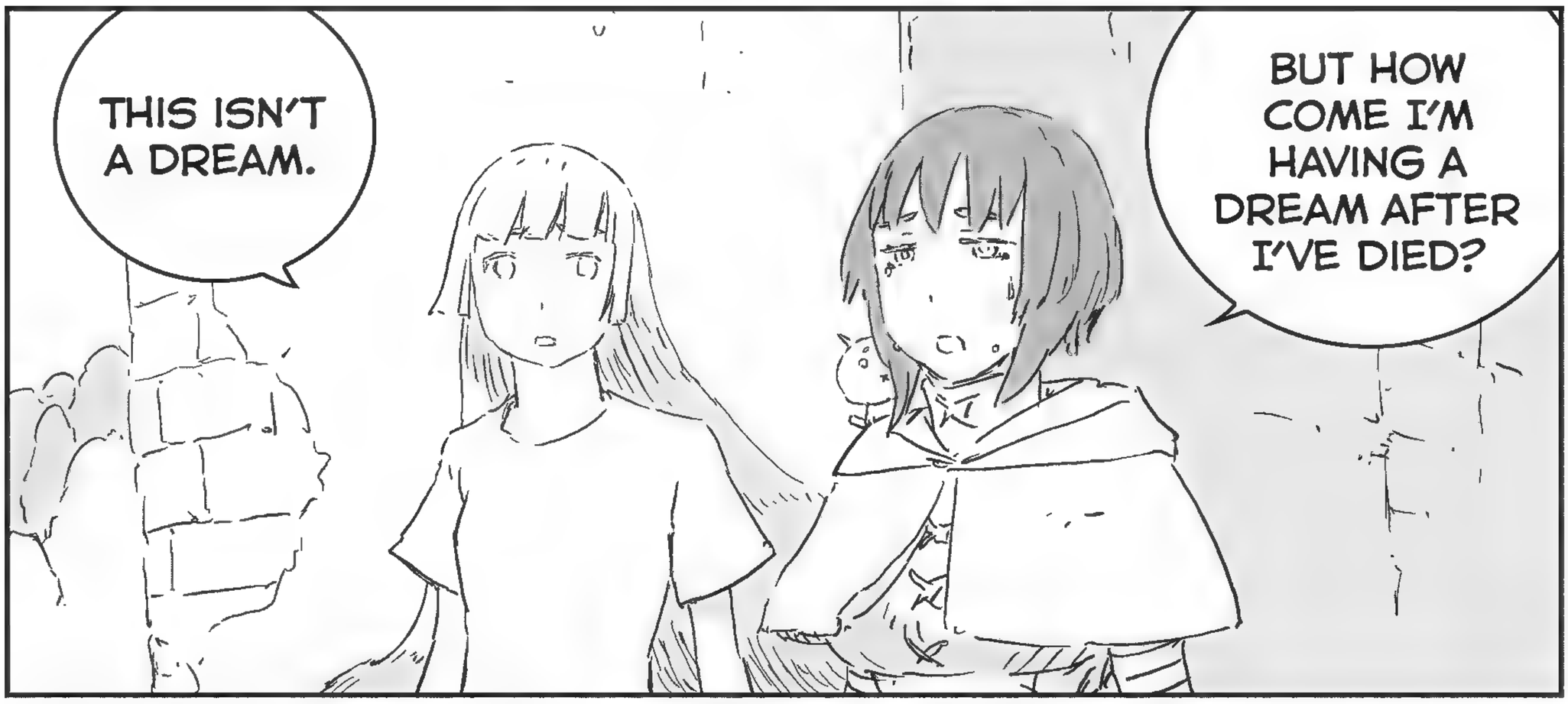
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
MUGU.
IT'S LIKE I'VE TURNED HUMAN AGAIN.
AND I'M ACTUALLY BREATH-ING.
IT SURE SMELLS NICE.


YOUR MATERIAL BODY ON THE SURFACE
HAS BEEN LOST.
THIS IS THE WORLD OF THE CORE.
WHERE ARE ETHEROW AND WASABU?
TITANIA, WHERE ARE WE?

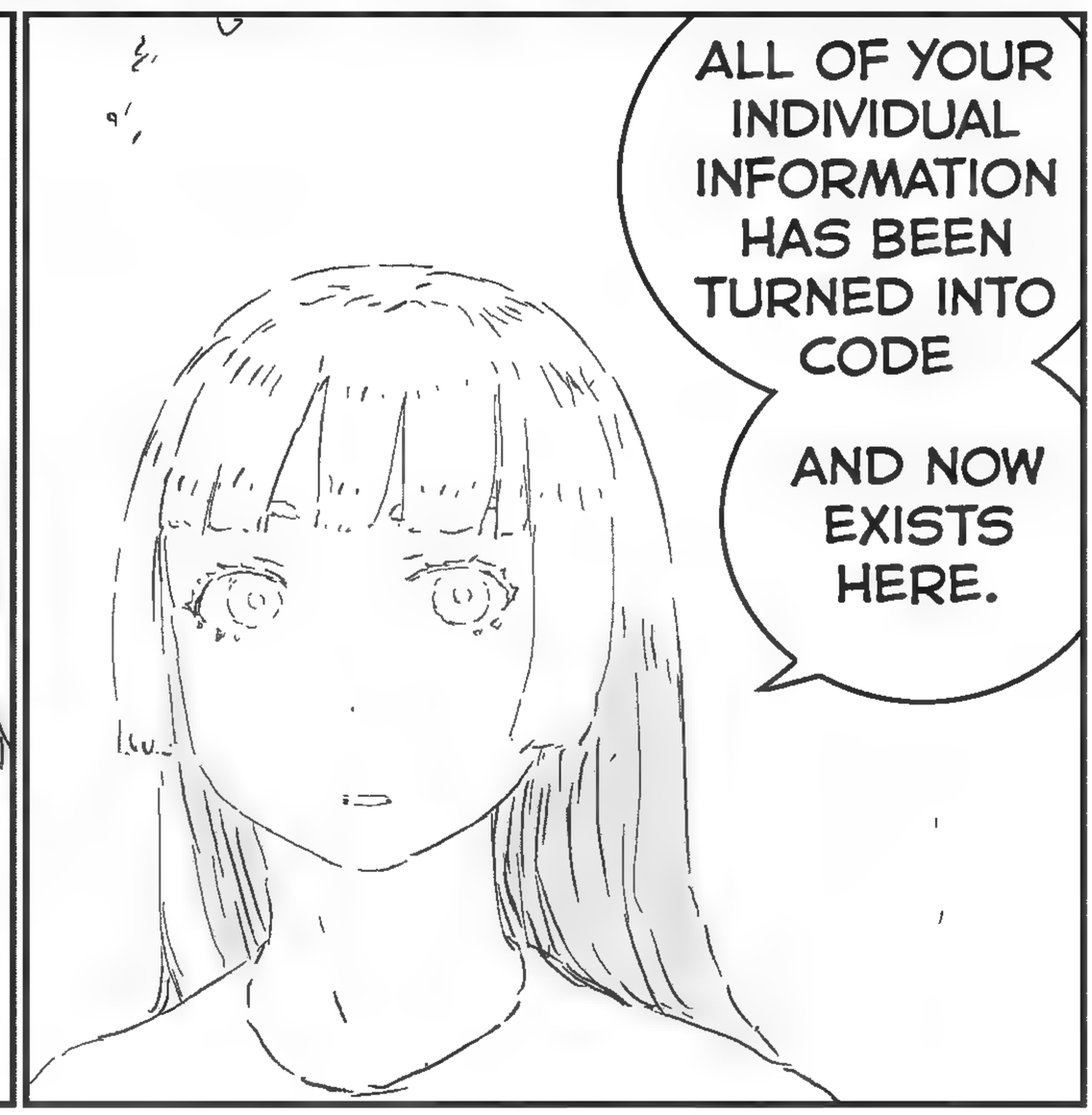

SO I REALLY AM DEAD.

I SEE...


...


THIS ISN'T A DREAM.
BUT HOW COME I'M HAVING A DREAM AFTER I'VE DIED?

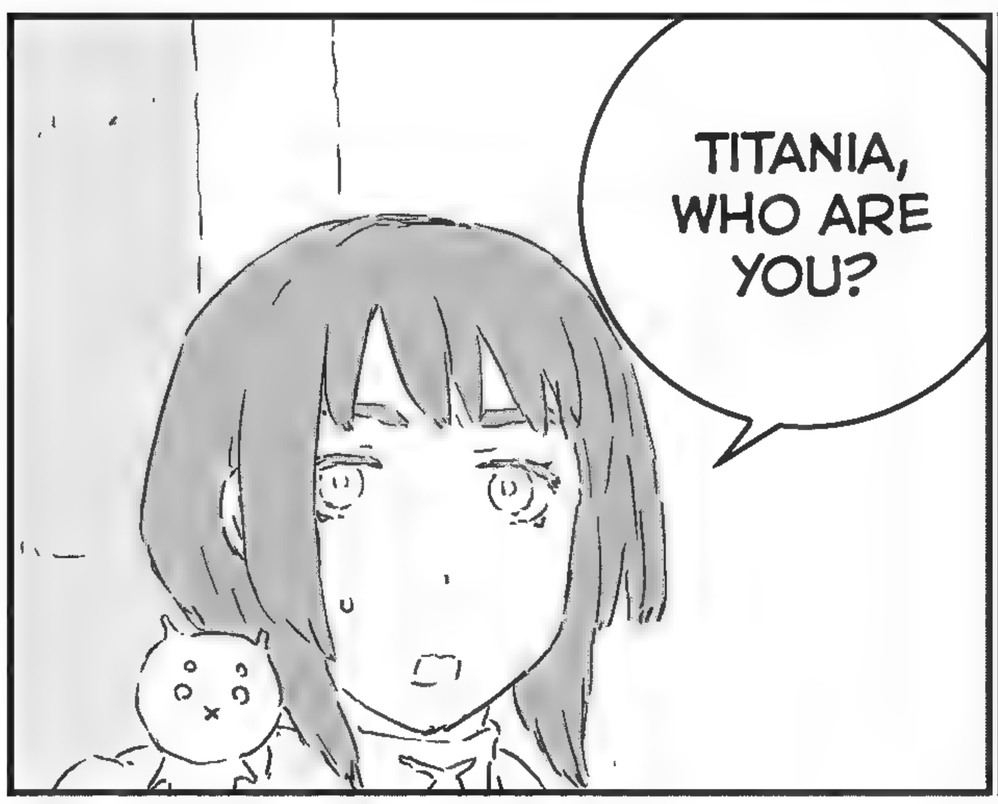
YOU ARE NOT DEAD, KEISHA.

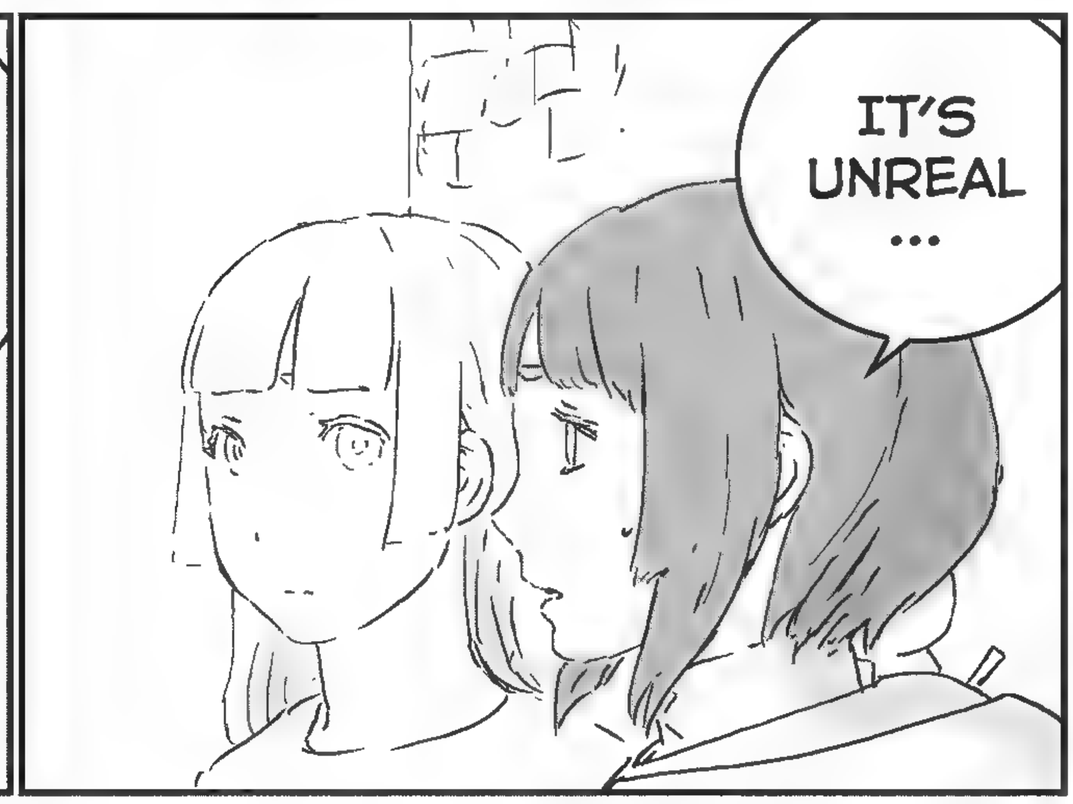

ALL OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION HAS BEEN TURNED INTO CODE
AND NOW EXISTS HERE.

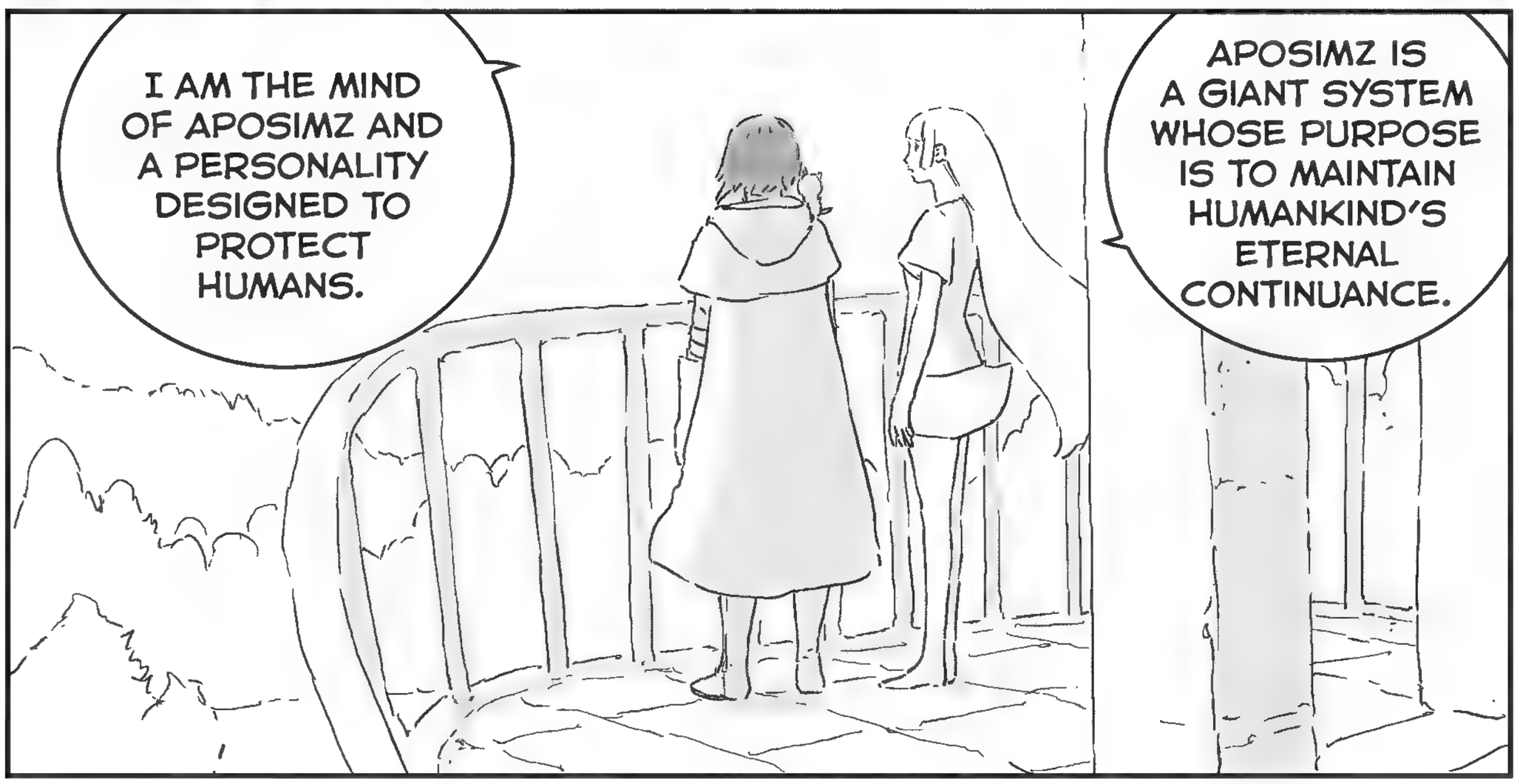
THE "WORLD IN WHICH PEOPLE LIVE IN THE CORE" ACTUALLY EXISTS.

JUST LIKE IN THE STORIES PASSED DOWN IN IRF NIKK...

THIS IS AN ARTIFICIAL REALITY IN THE CORE.

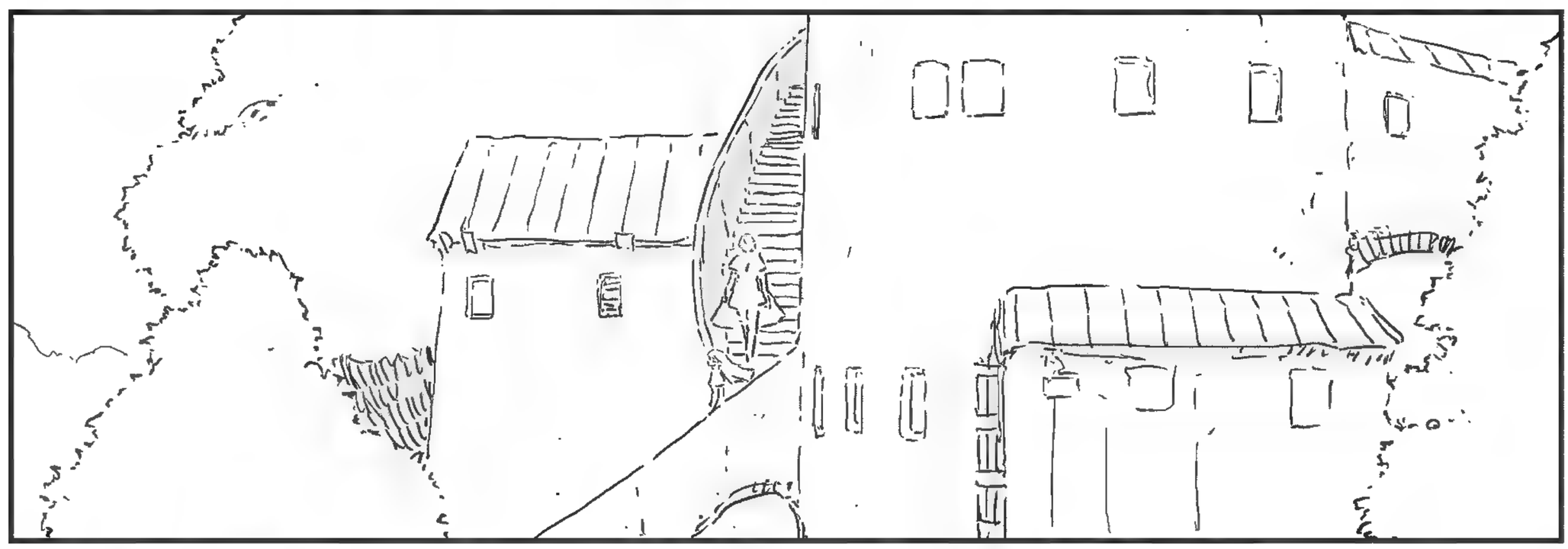


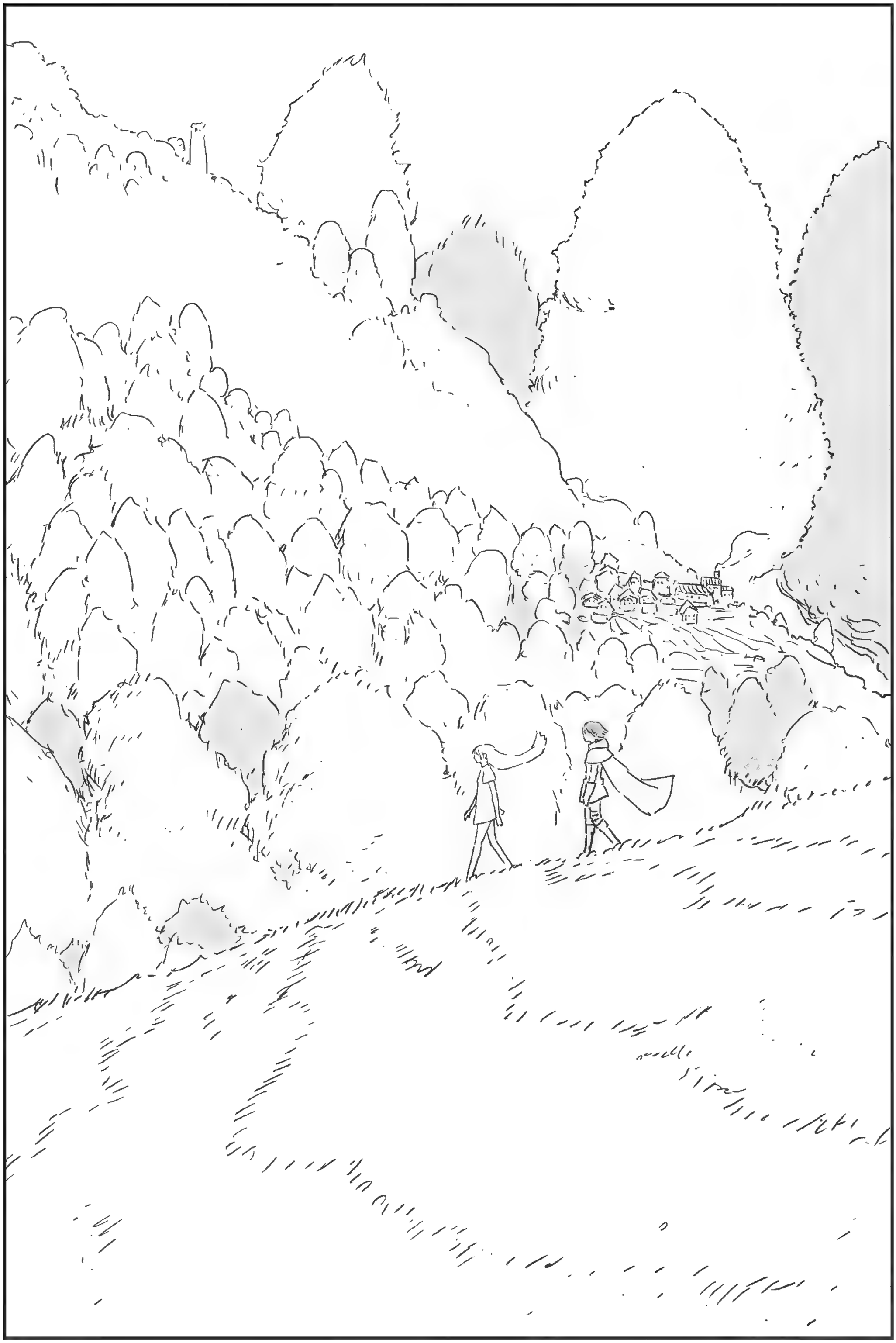




SHALL WE WALK OUTSIDE FOR A BIT?
THE PEOPLE OF IRF NIKK ARE QUICK TO UNDERSTAND.

TITANIA, THAT'S *YOU?!*
THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE GOD OF THE CORE THAT RULES OVER EVERY-THING...





COULD IT BE THAT EVERYONE WHO DIES ON THE SURFACE ENDS UP HERE?

MY FATHER IS HERE, AS WELL AS PEOPLE WHO DIED A VERY LONG TIME AGO.

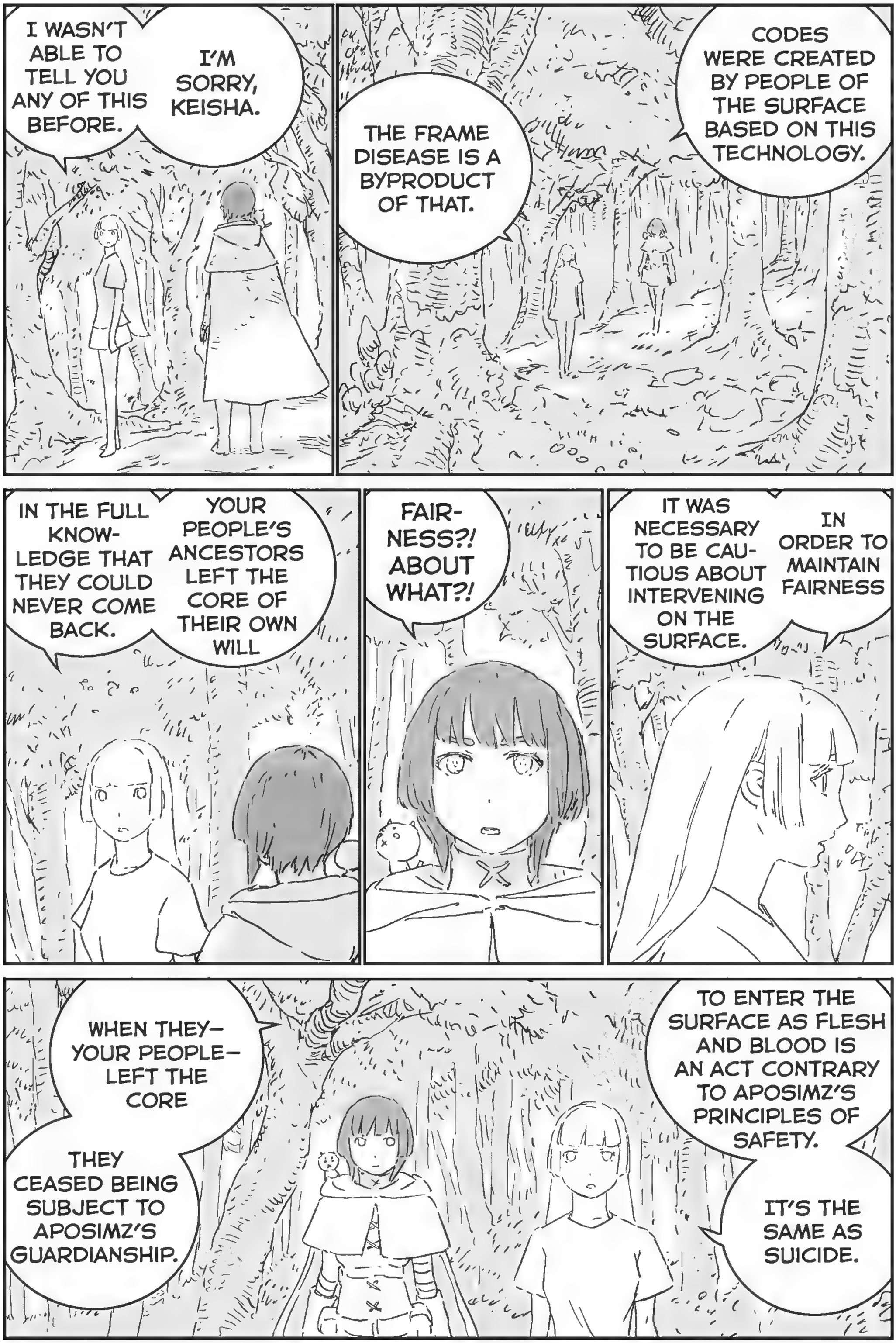
TITANIA,

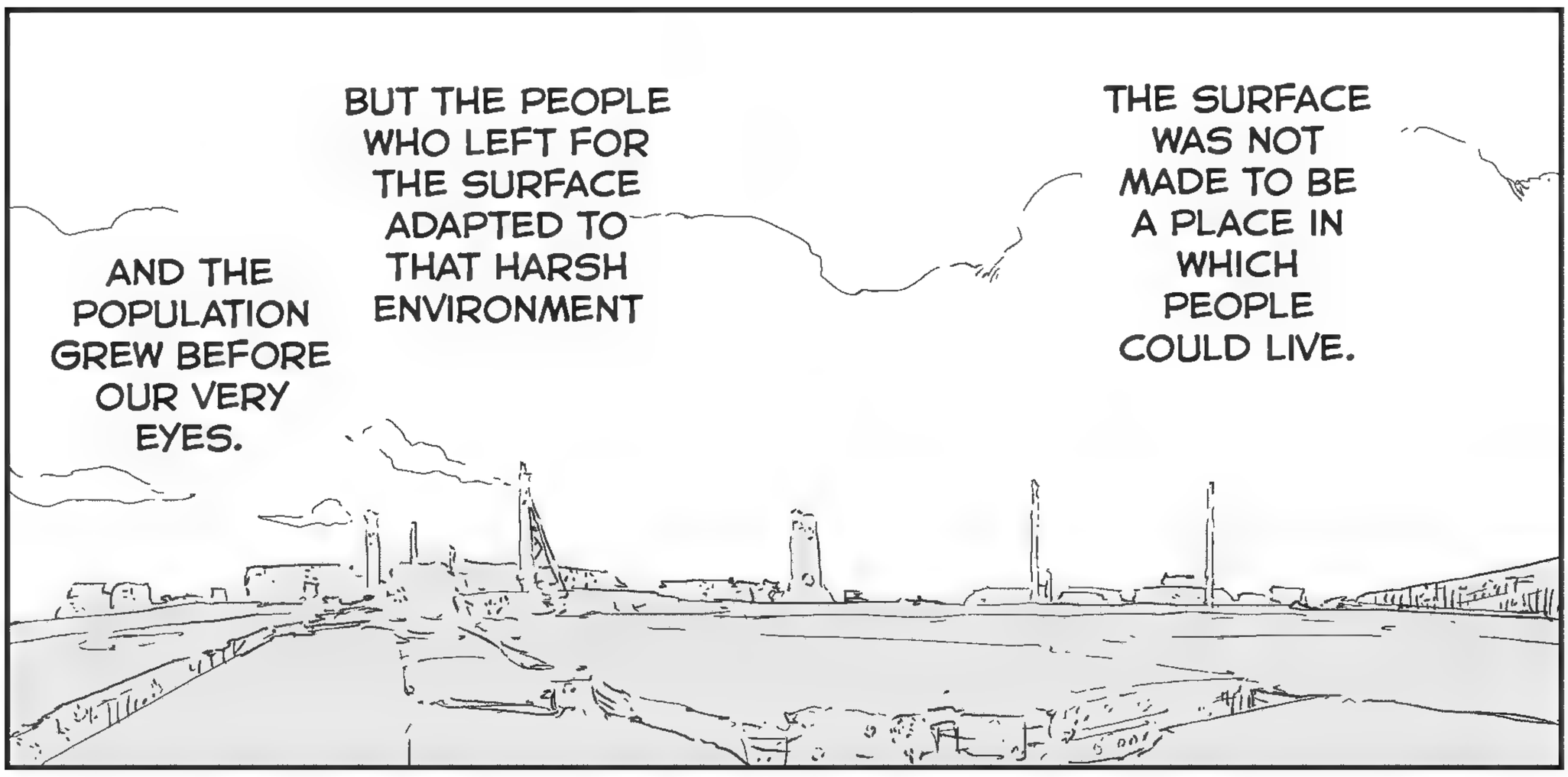
CAN ALSO BE MATERIALIZED IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD.

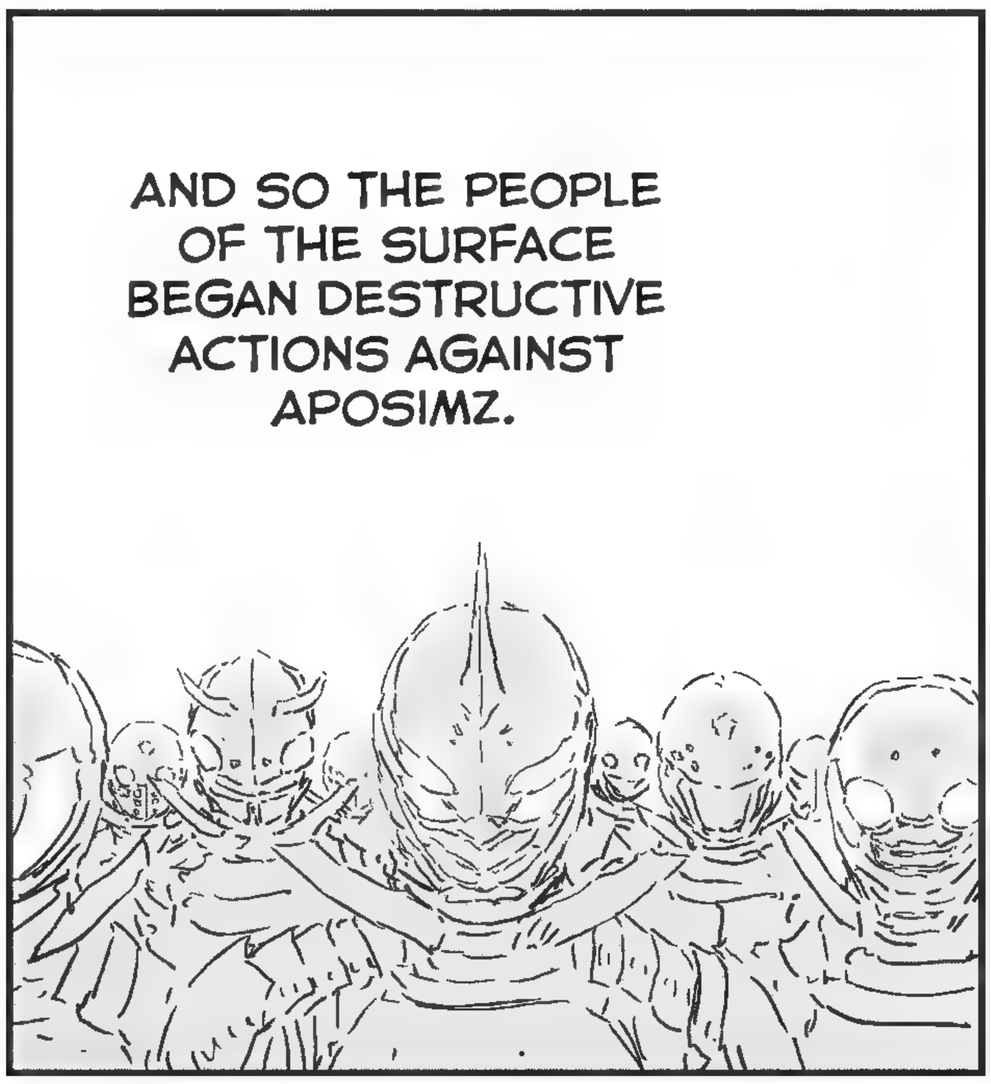
ON THE OTHER HAND, EVERYTHING INSIDE THIS REALM

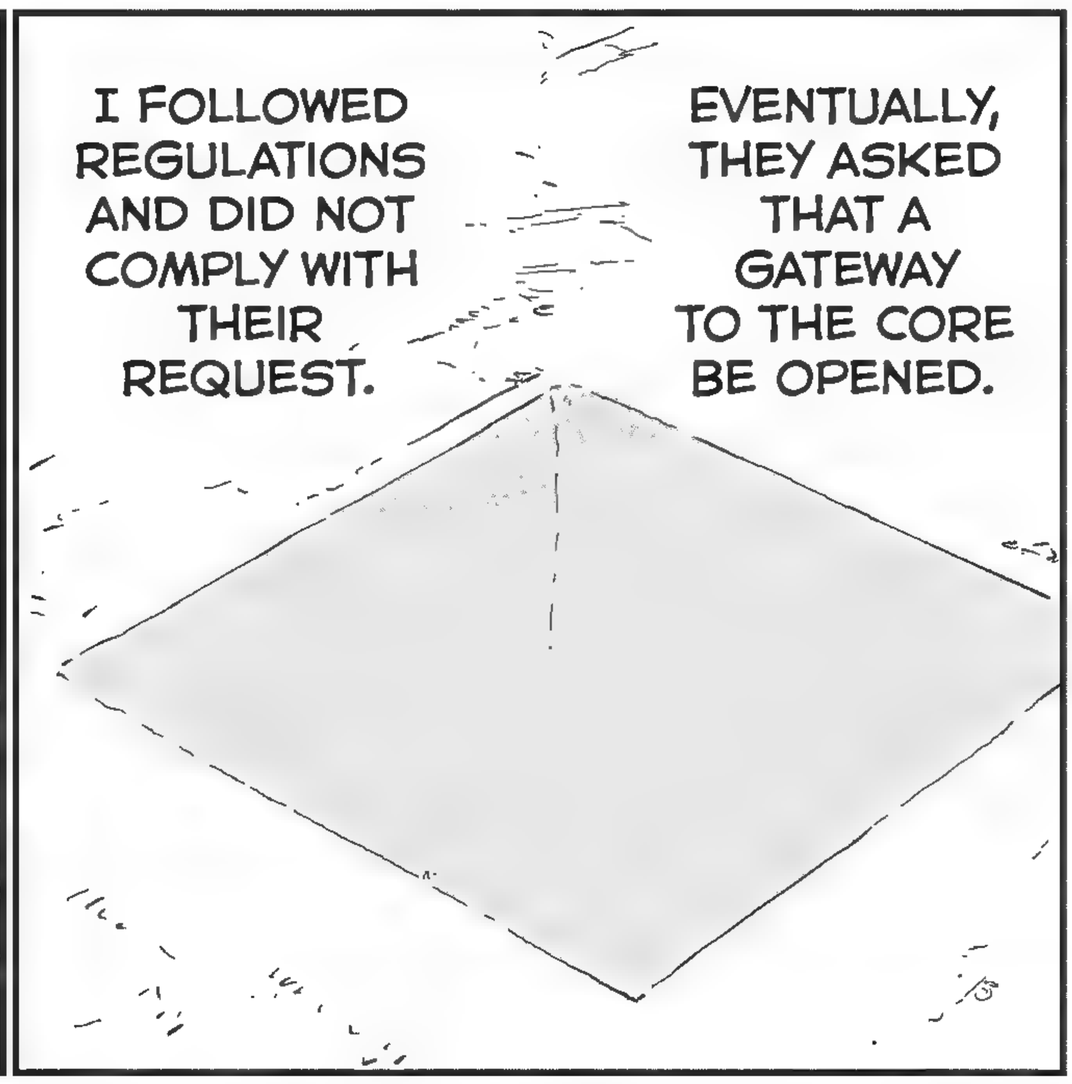
THE INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION OF EVERYONE ON THE SURFACE IS CONTINUALLY GATHERED AND PRESERVED.

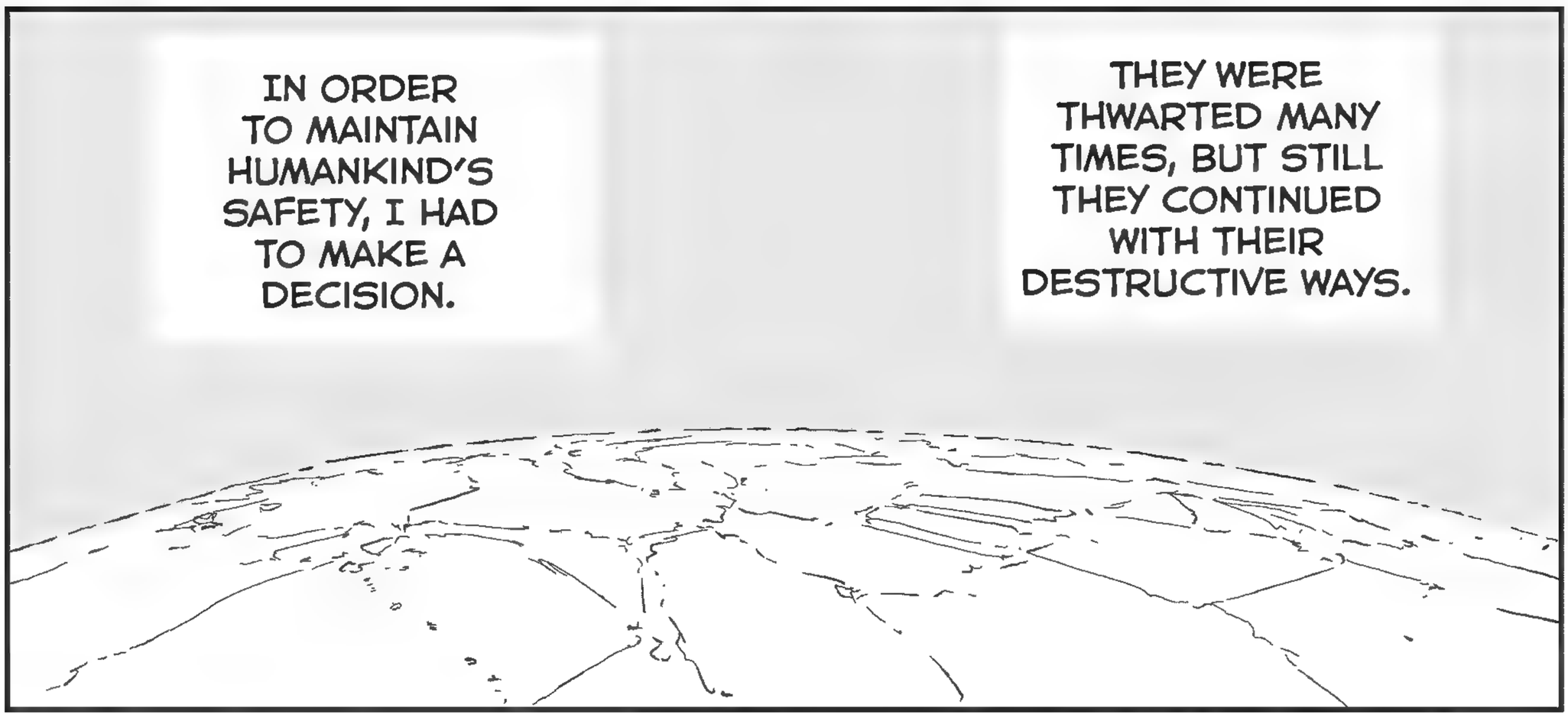
YES.


I WASN'T ABLE TO TELL YOU ANY OF THIS BEFORE.
I'M SORRY, KEISHA.
THE FRAME DISEASE IS A BYPRODUCT OF THAT.
CODES WERE CREATED BY PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE BASED ON THIS TECHNOLOGY.
IN THE FULL KNOW-LEDGE THAT THEY COULD NEVER COME BACK.
YOUR PEOPLE'S ANCESTORS LEFT THE CORE OF THEIR OWN WILL
FAIR-NESS?! ABOUT WHAT?!
IT WAS NECESSARY TO BE CAU-TIOUS ABOUT INTERVENING ON THE SURFACE.
IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN FAIRNESS
WHEN THEY— YOUR PEOPLE— LEFT THE CORE
THEY CEASED BEING SUBJECT TO APOSIMZ'S GUARDIANSHIP.
TO ENTER THE SURFACE AS FLESH AND BLOOD IS AN ACT CONTRARY TO APOSIMZ'S PRINCIPLES OF SAFETY.
IT'S THE SAME AS SUICIDE.


AND THE POPULATION GREW BEFORE OUR VERY EYES.
BUT THE PEOPLE WHO LEFT FOR THE SURFACE ADAPTED TO THAT HARSH ENVIRONMENT
THE SURFACE WAS NOT MADE TO BE A PLACE IN WHICH PEOPLE COULD LIVE.


AND SO THE PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE BEGAN DESTRUCTIVE ACTIONS AGAINST APOSIMZ.


I FOLLOWED REGULATIONS AND DID NOT COMPLY WITH THEIR REQUEST.
EVENTUALLY, THEY ASKED THAT A GATEWAY TO THE CORE BE OPENED.


IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HUMANKIND'S SAFETY, I HAD TO MAKE A DECISION.
THEY WERE THWARTED MANY TIMES, BUT STILL THEY CONTINUED WITH THEIR DESTRUCTIVE WAYS.

OR KILL THEM ALL.

FORCE THEM TO RETURN TO THE CORE,

WAS THE SECOND ONE.

IT WAS A CRUEL CHOICE, BUT THE BEST OPTION FOR HUMANKIND

THUS, RETURNING TO THE CORE WAS IMPOSSI-BLE.

WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE WELCOMED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CORE. AND IT WAS A PRECEDENT THAT OUGHT NOT TO BE SET.

THE POPULATION IN THE CORE IS STRICTLY CONTROLLED, AND THOSE WHO SELFISHLY INCREASED THE POPULATION'S NUMBERS

AND THEN THAT CODE WAS CREATED.

BUT TO APOSIMZ THEY REMAINED, AS EVER, A THREAT.

BEFORE I WAS ABLE TO DECIDE, THEY WENT INTO DECLINE THROUGH WARS BETWEEN NATIONS OF THE SURFACE AND THE FRAME DISEASE.

AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS POWER, BUT IF IT COULD BE EXPLOITED EFFECTIVELY, IT WAS A TOOL THAT COULD STRENGTHEN APOSIMZ'S SAFETY.

A CODE WHICH BROUGHT ON AN ABILITY TO SEE THE FUTURE.

IF THIS COULD BE DEMONSTRATED TO BE TRUE, THEN THEY COULD BE WELCOMED AS LEGITIMATE RESIDENTS OF THE CORE.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE EXISTENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE NOW BECAME BENEFICIAL TO APOSIMZ.

WHO NEEDED THE TRANSFORMATION...

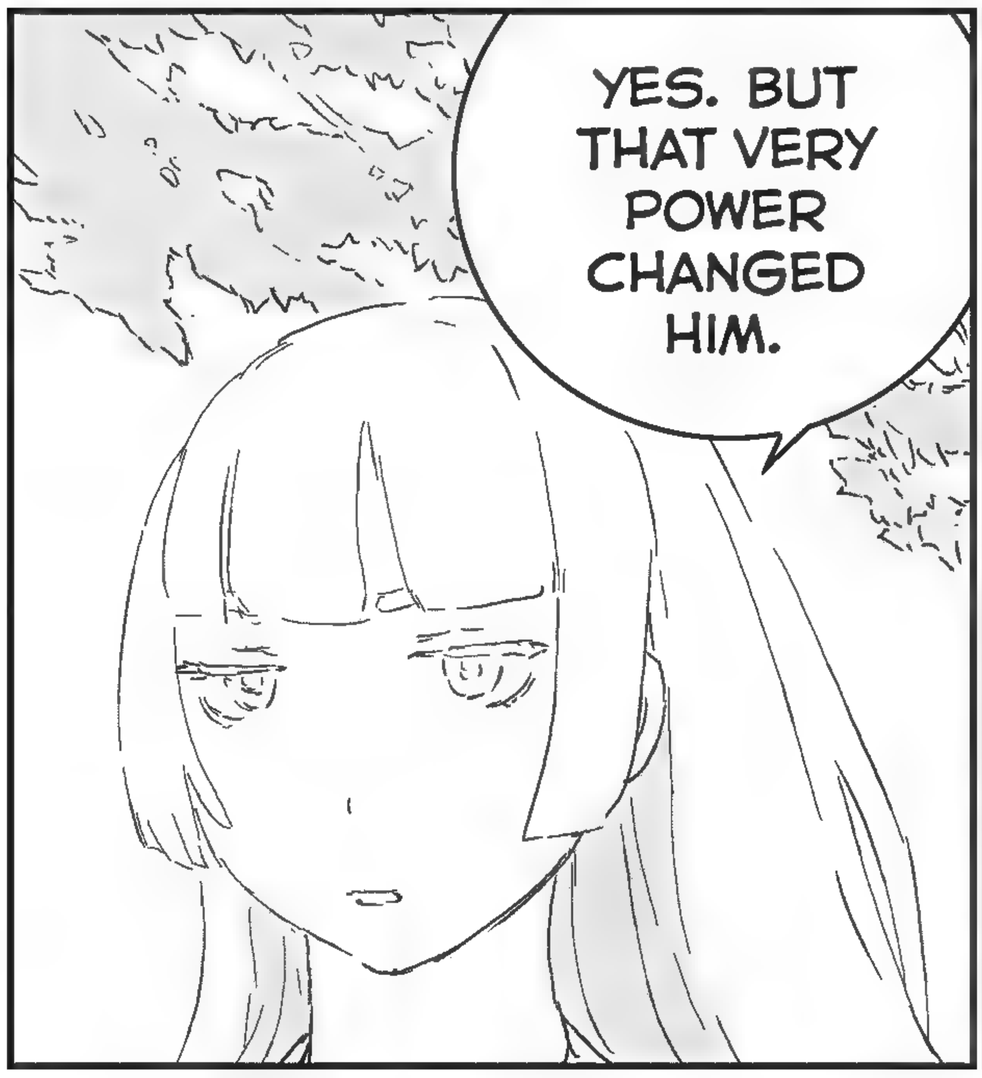
FOR A PERSON WHO COULD BE A GUARDIAN OF APOSIMZ,

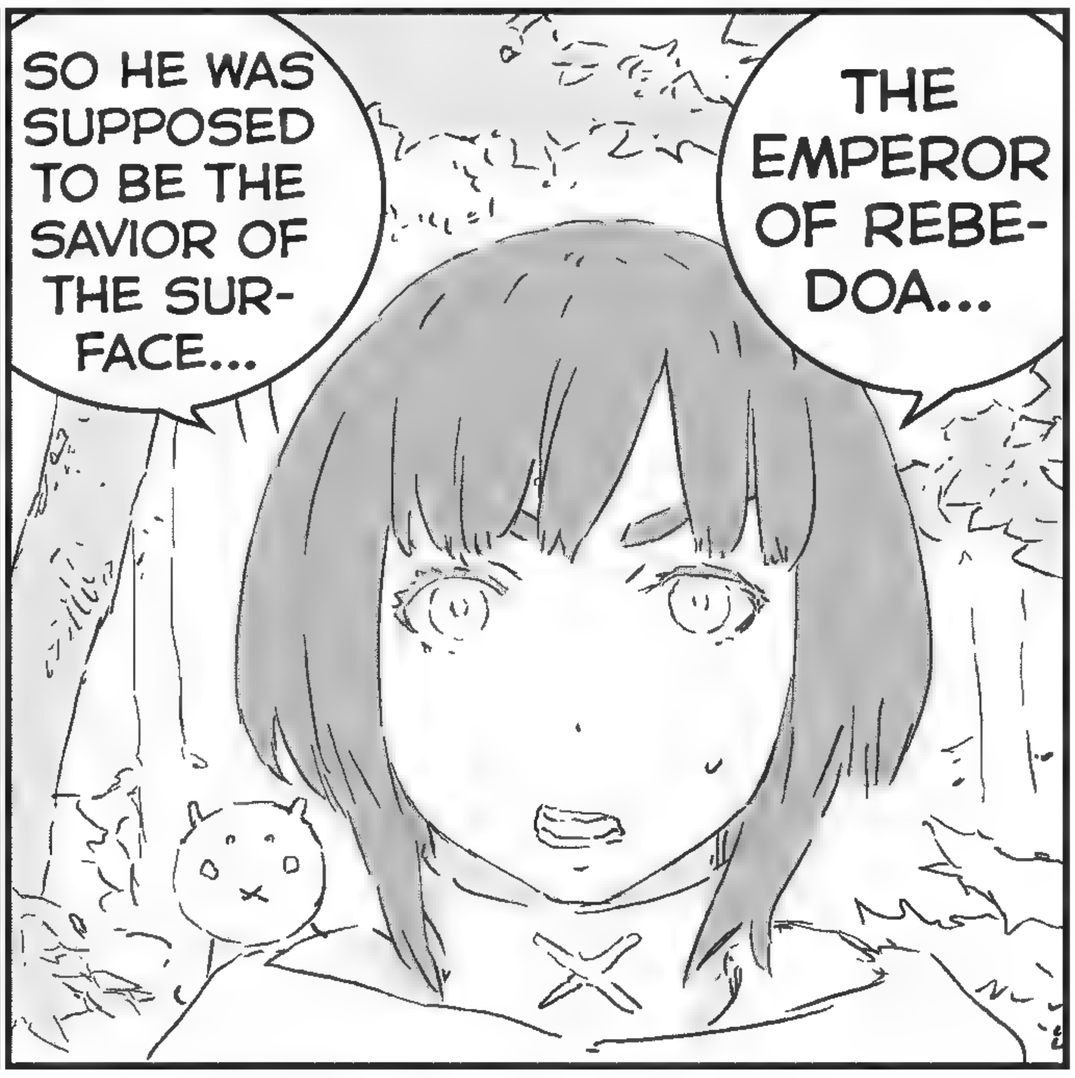
AND WAS COMPATIBLE WITH THE CODE...

FOR A PERSON WHO SATISFIED ALL THESE CONDITIONS.

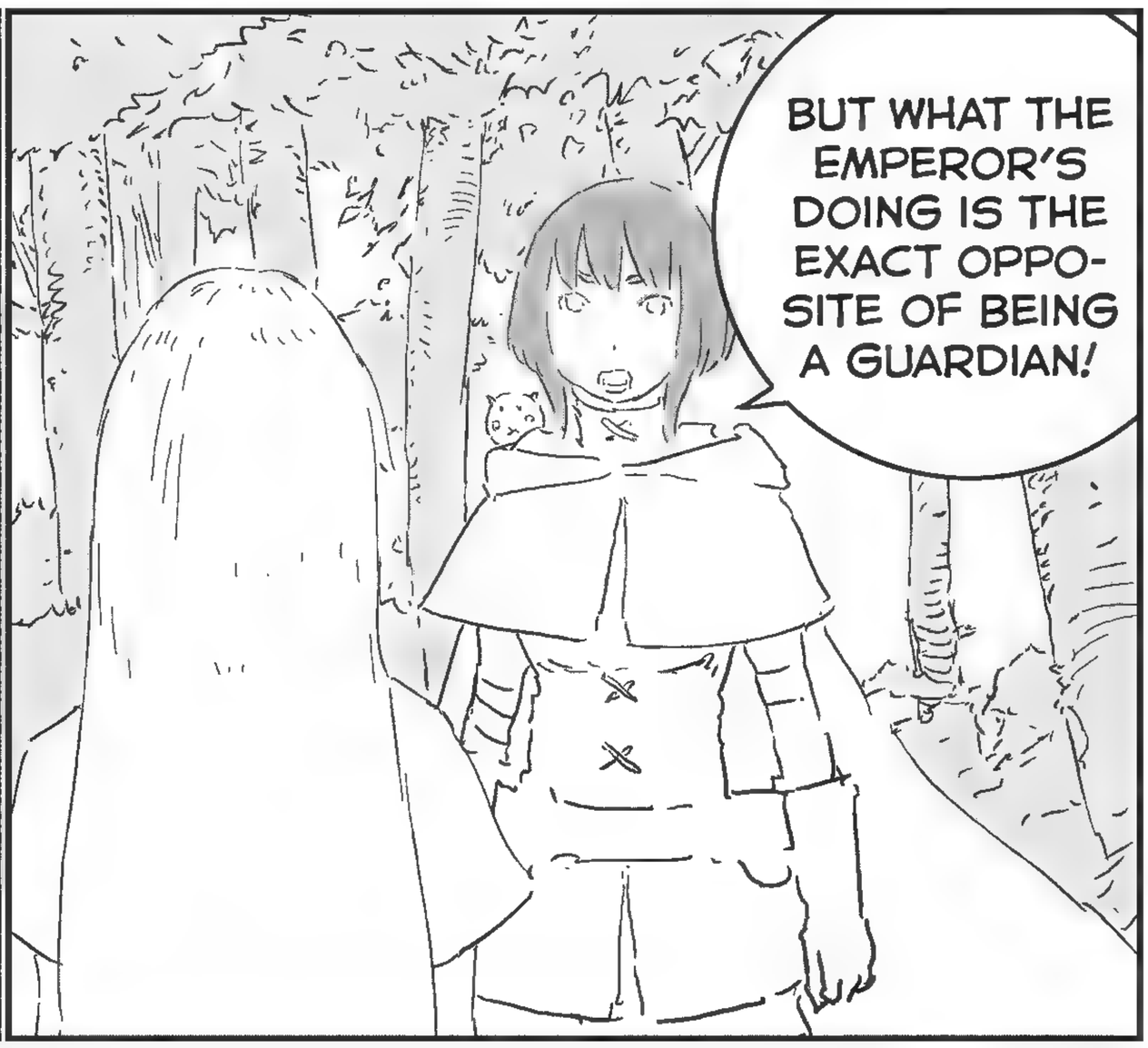
AND SO I CAME LOOKING

THAT PERSON WAS NICHIKO SUOU.


YES. BUT THAT VERY POWER CHANGED HIM.


SO HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE SAVIOR OF THE SUR-FACE...
THE EMPEROR OF REBE-DOA...

SO THEN ETHEROW WAS CHOSEN AS THE NEW CANDIDATE!
OH!!


BUT WHAT THE EMPEROR'S DOING IS THE EXACT OPPO-SITE OF BEING A GUARDIAN!

THEN I WOULD HAVE HAD TO ERADICATE HIM

IF NICHIKO SUOU HAD GOTTEN AHOLD OF THE OTHER DANGEROUS CODES, EBTGS, AND AMBS,

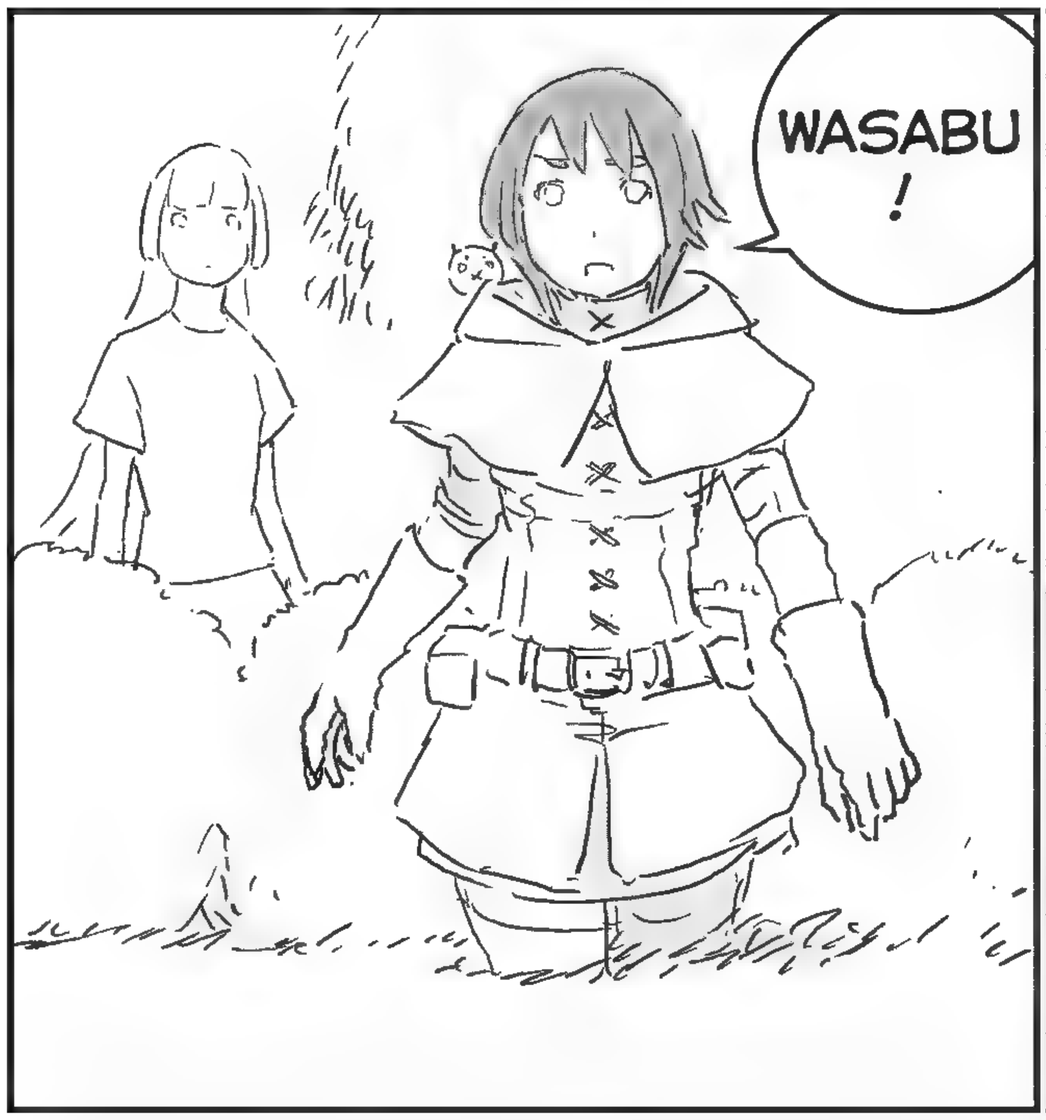
AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE.

YES. AND THE PERSON THAT CAN STOP THAT FROM HAPPENING IS ETHEROW.

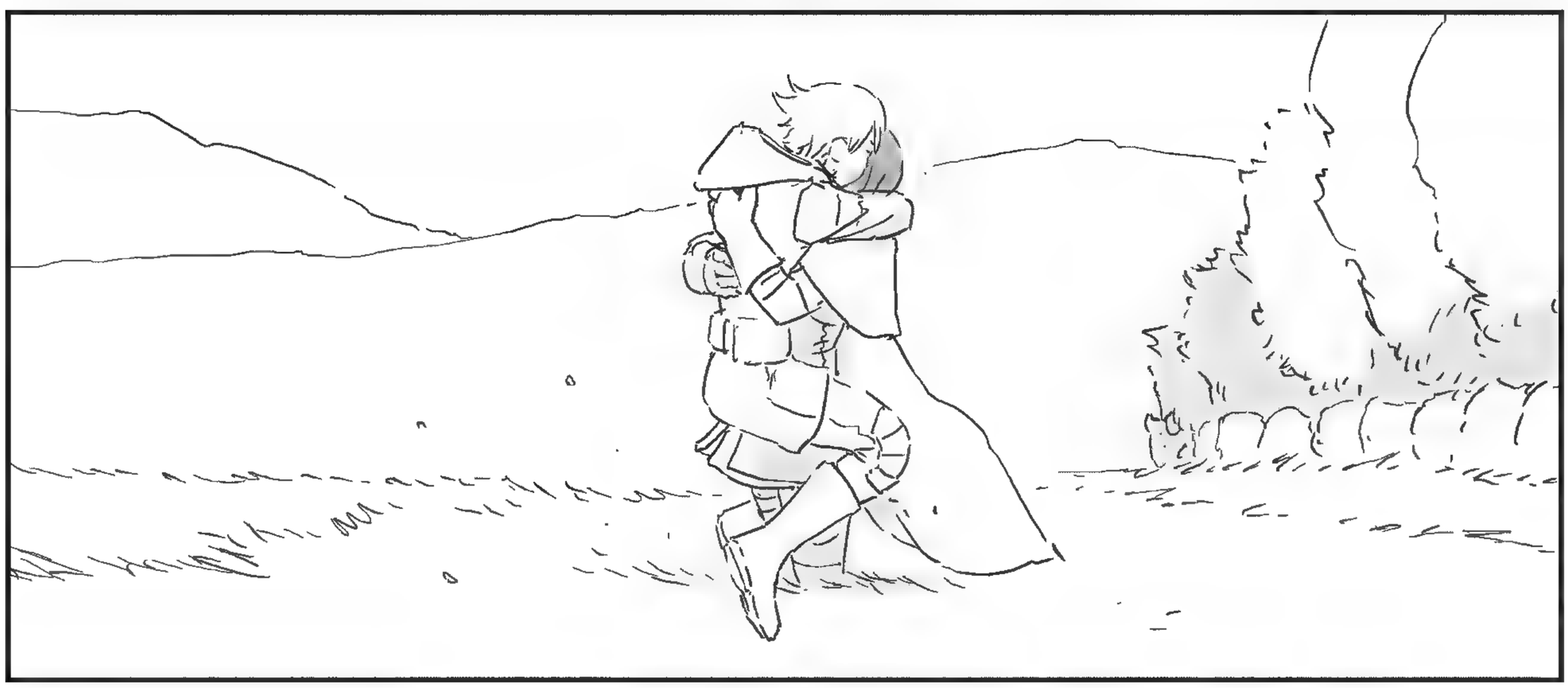
SO THE WORLD ENDING IF THE EMPEROR GETS AHOLD OF THE AMBS

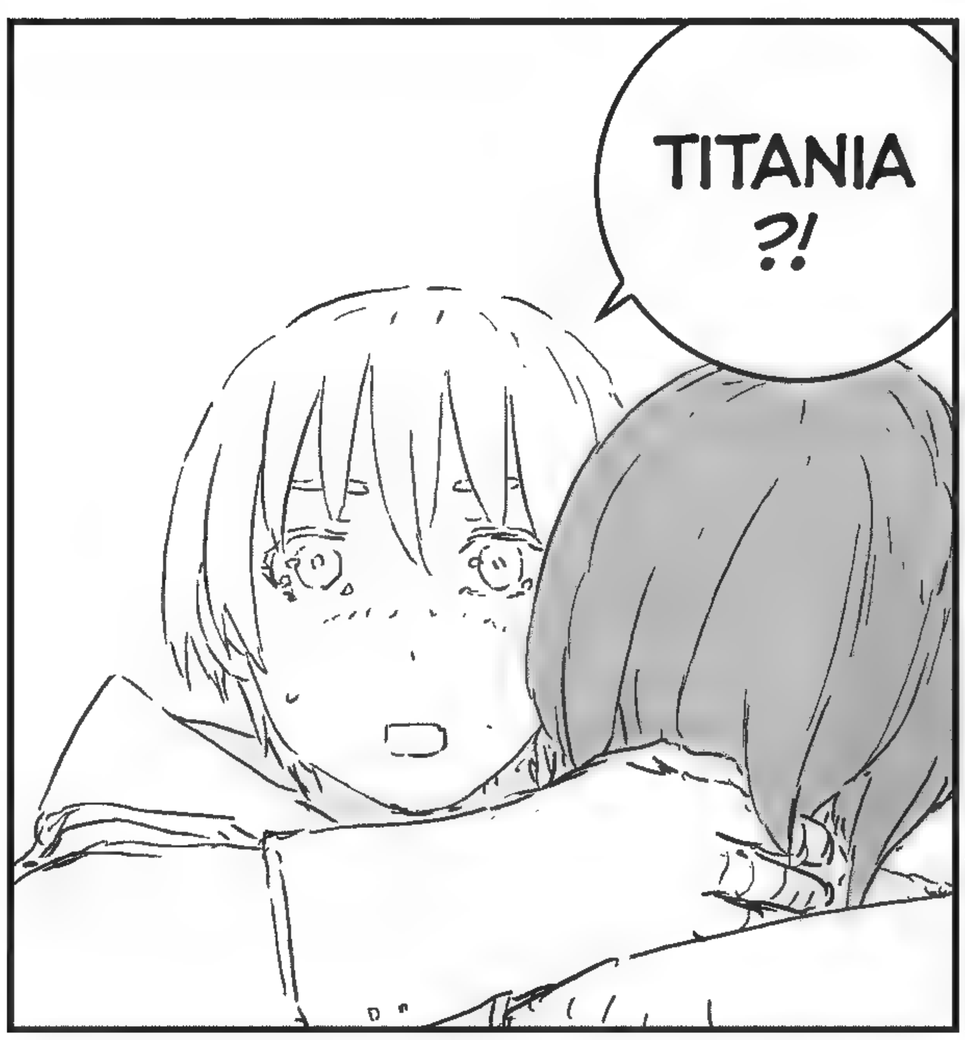
MEANS THE WORLD OF THE SURFACE PEOPLE, RIGHT?

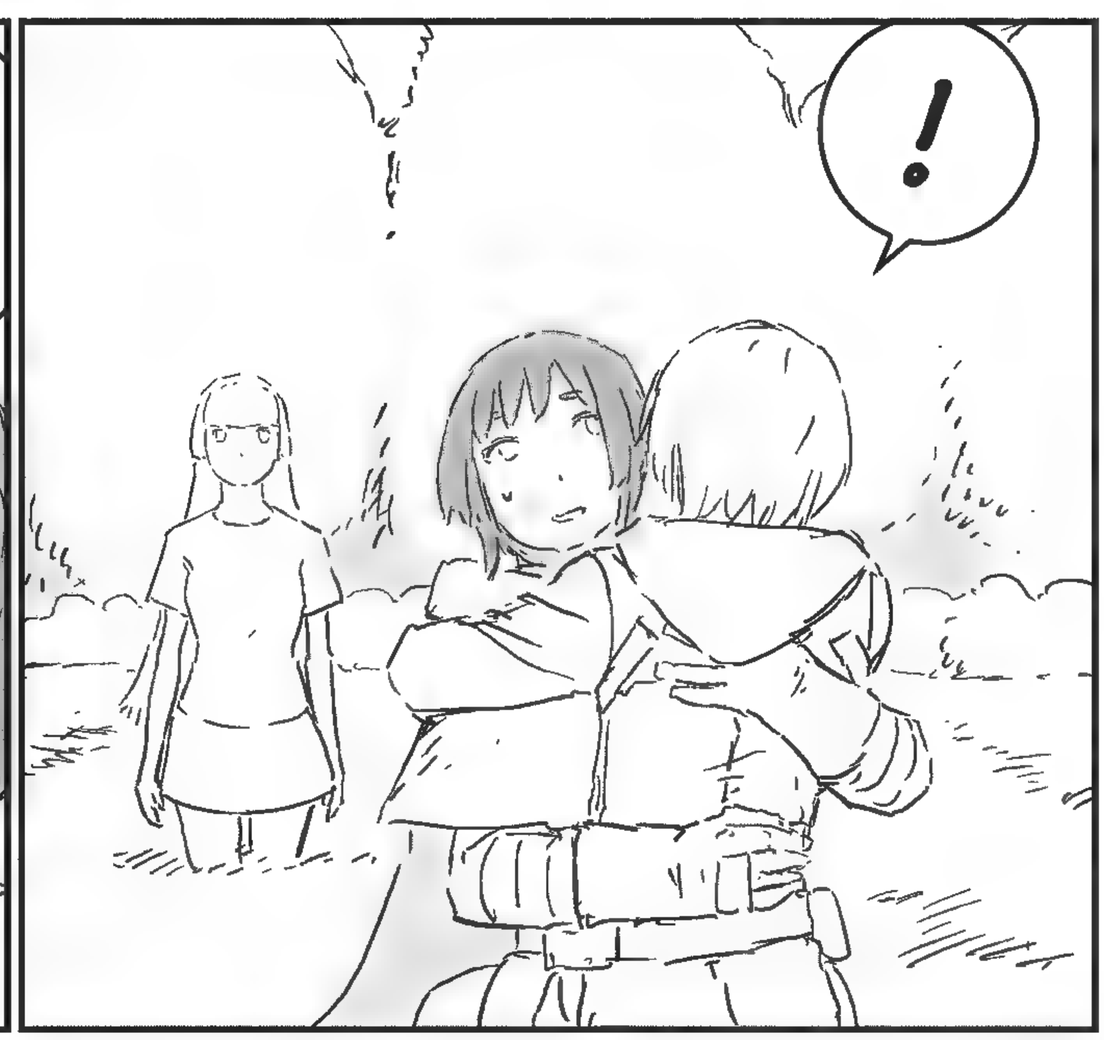
HEYYY!

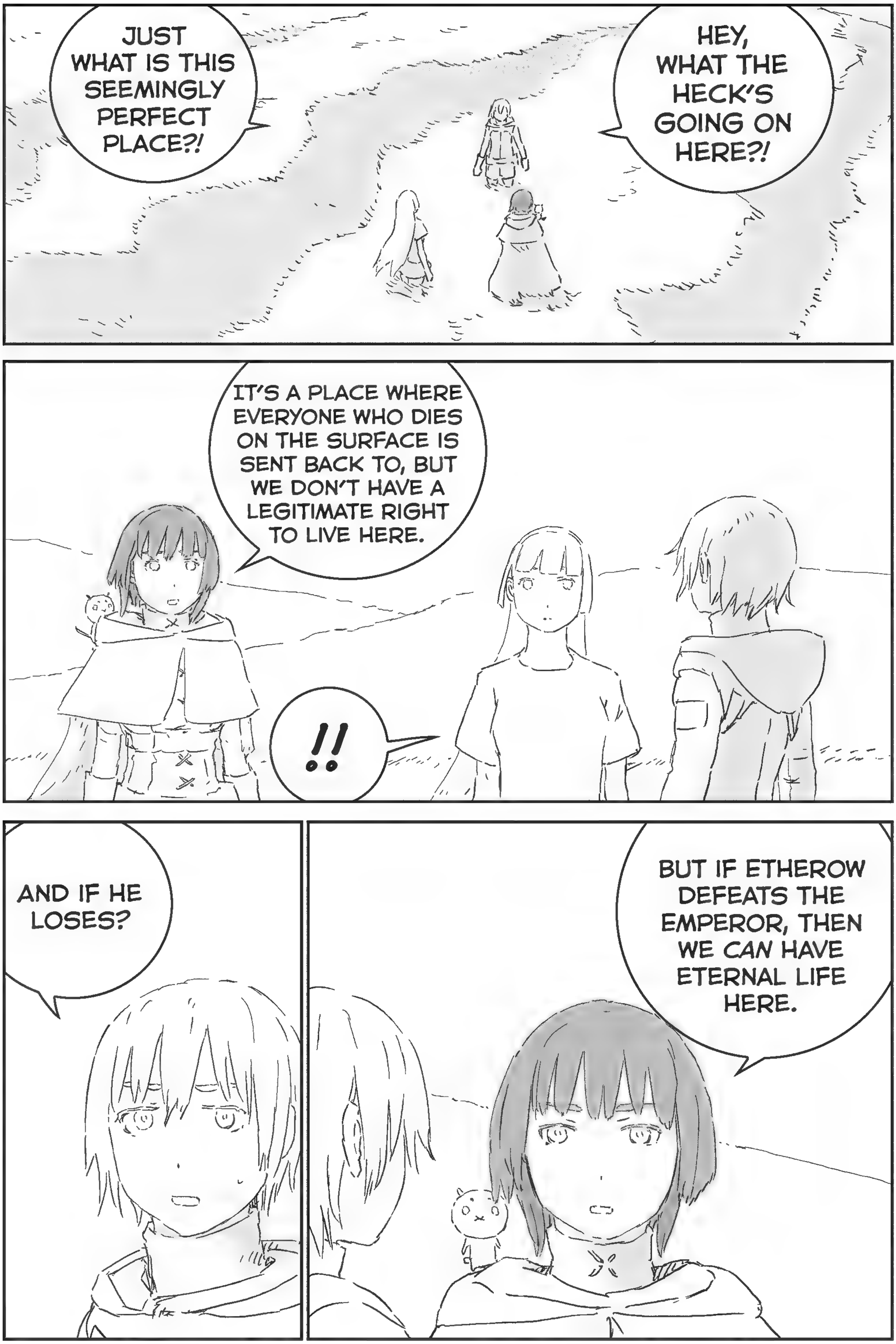

WASABU
!

KEISHAAA
!!



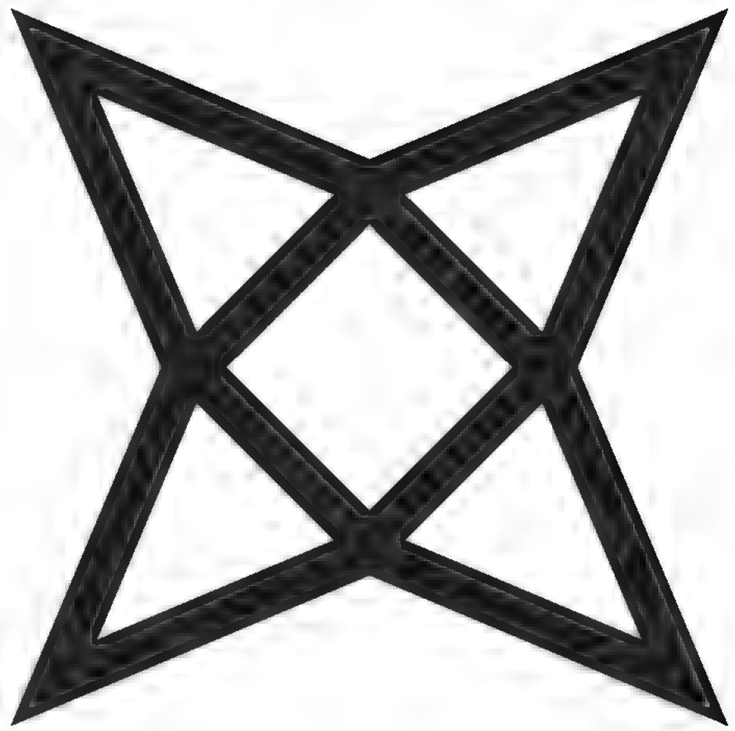

TITANIA
?!


!

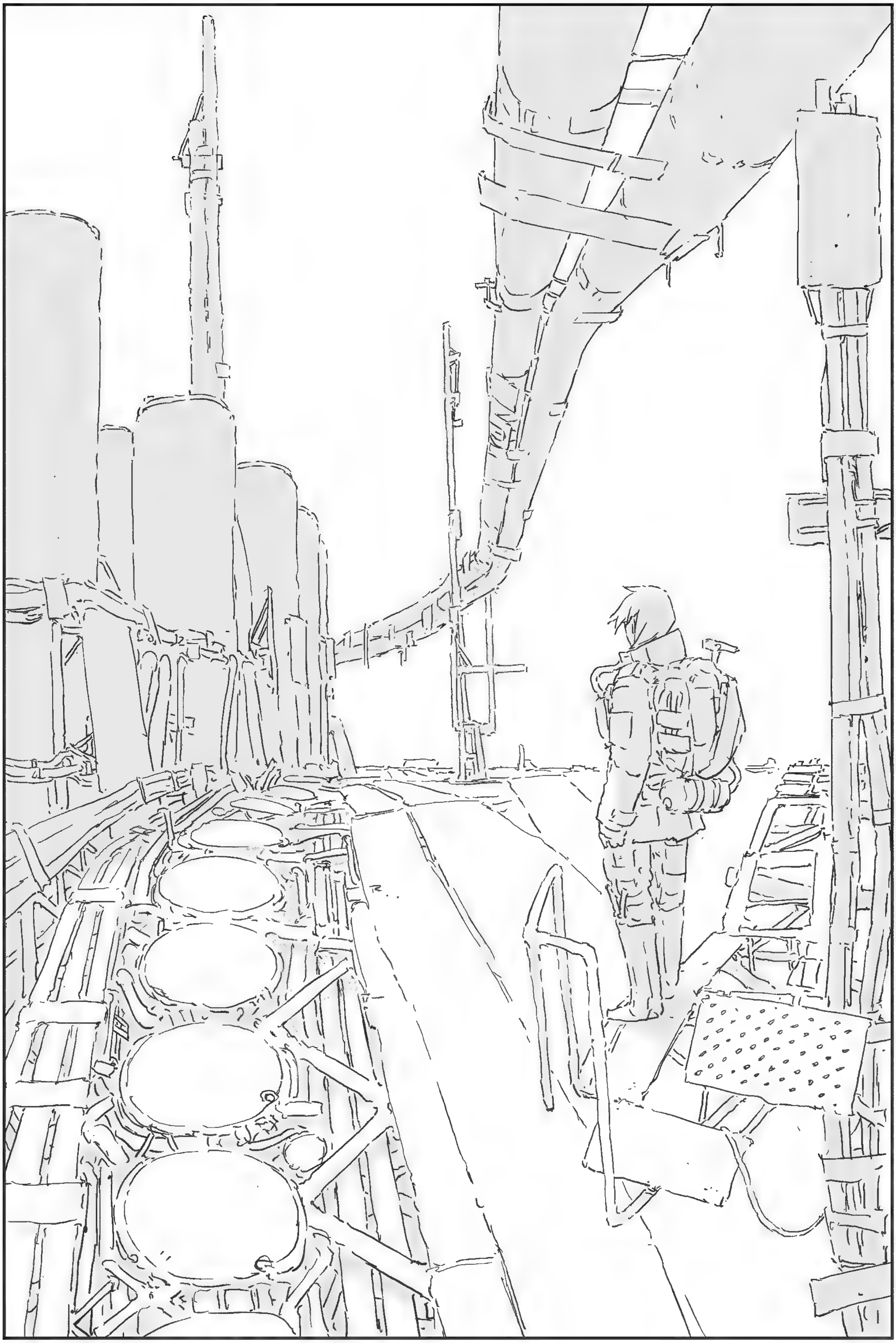

JUST WHAT IS THIS SEEMINGLY PERFECT PLACE?!
HEY, WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON HERE?!
IT'S A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE WHO DIES ON THE SURFACE IS SENT BACK TO, BUT WE DON'T HAVE A LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO LIVE HERE.
!!
AND IF HE LOSES?
BUT IF ETHEROW DEFEATS THE EMPEROR, THEN WE CAN HAVE ETERNAL LIFE HERE.

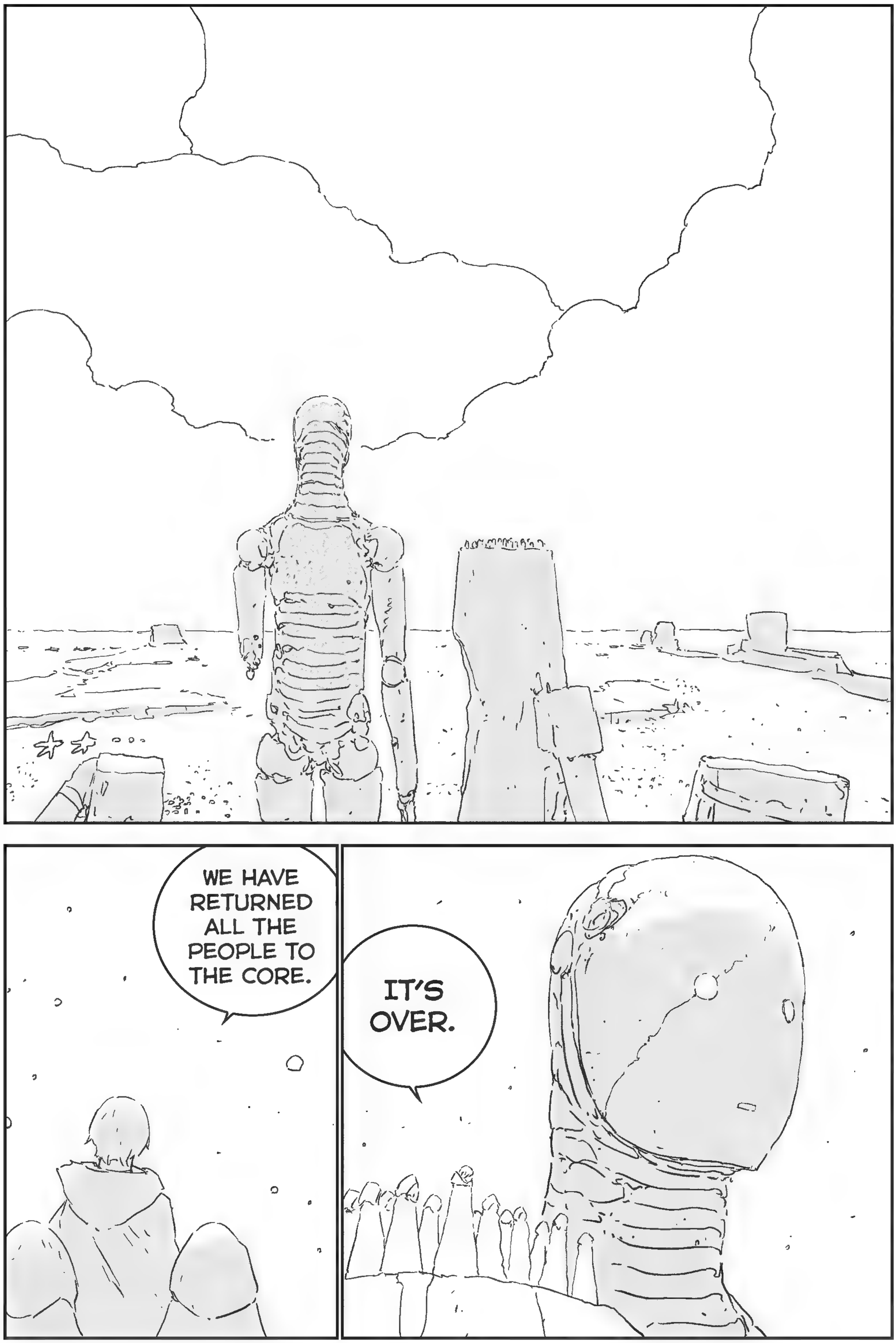
CHAPTER 53 END

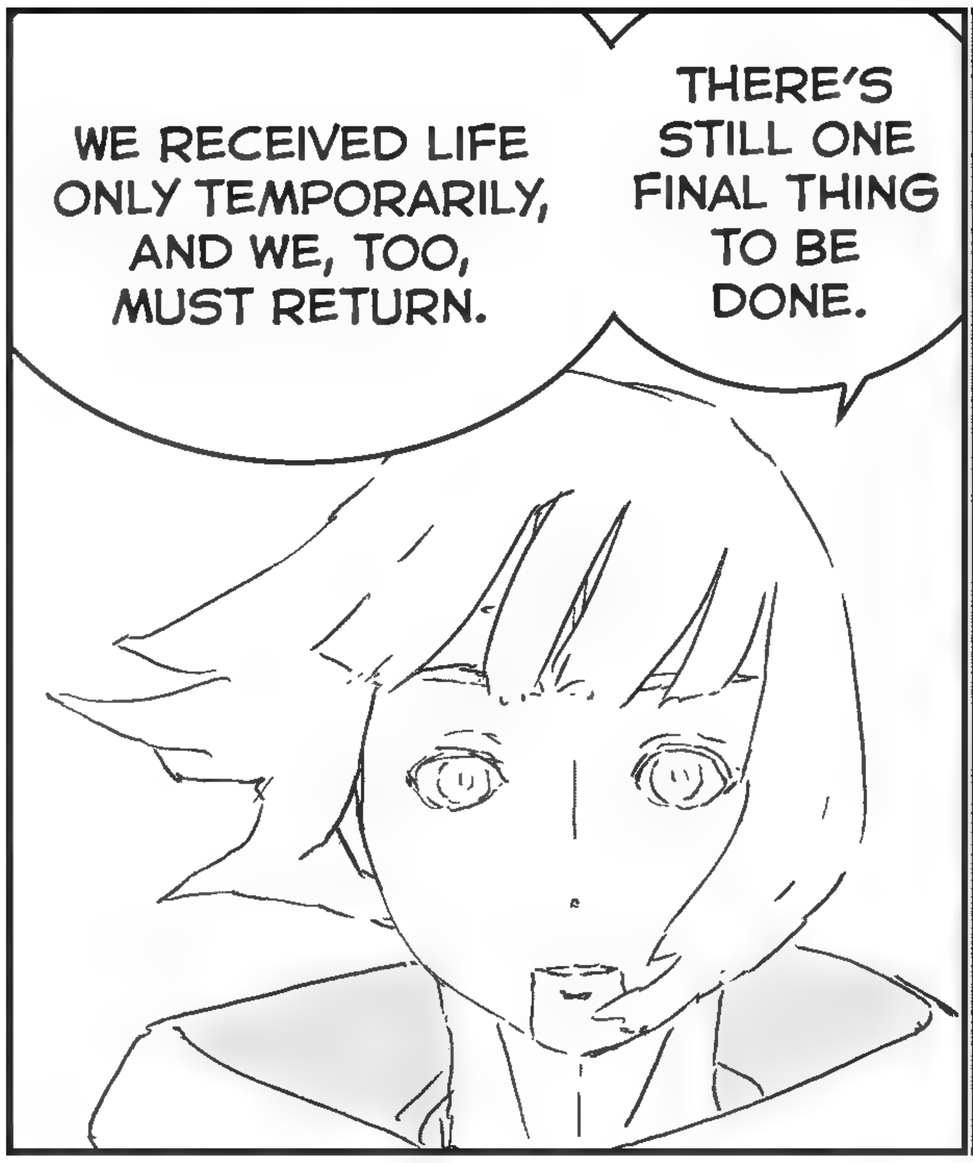
APOSIMZ

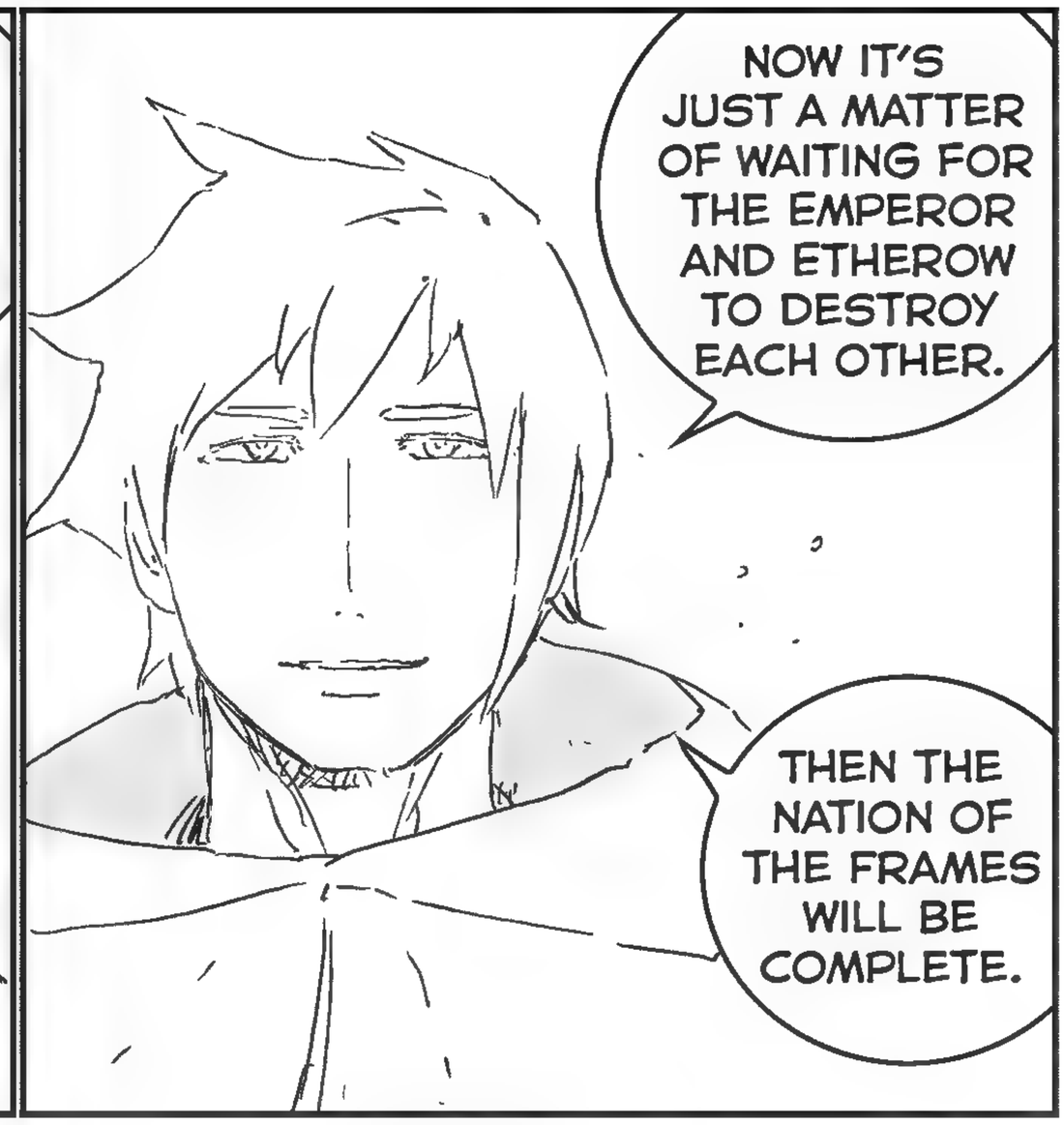


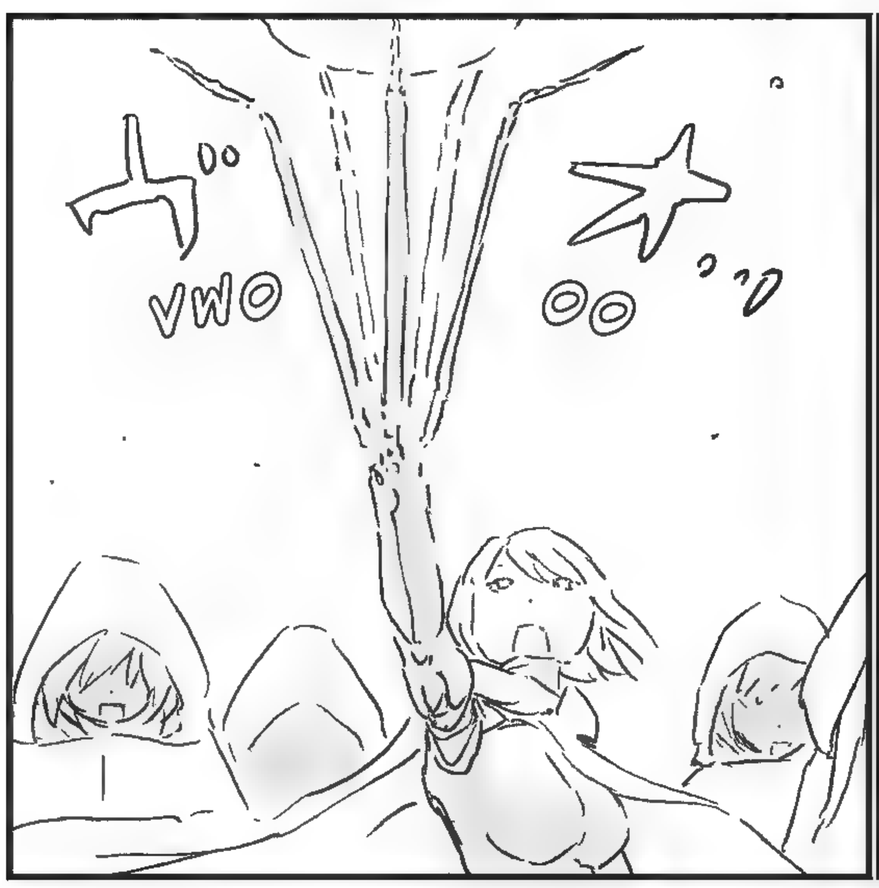
CHAPTER 54

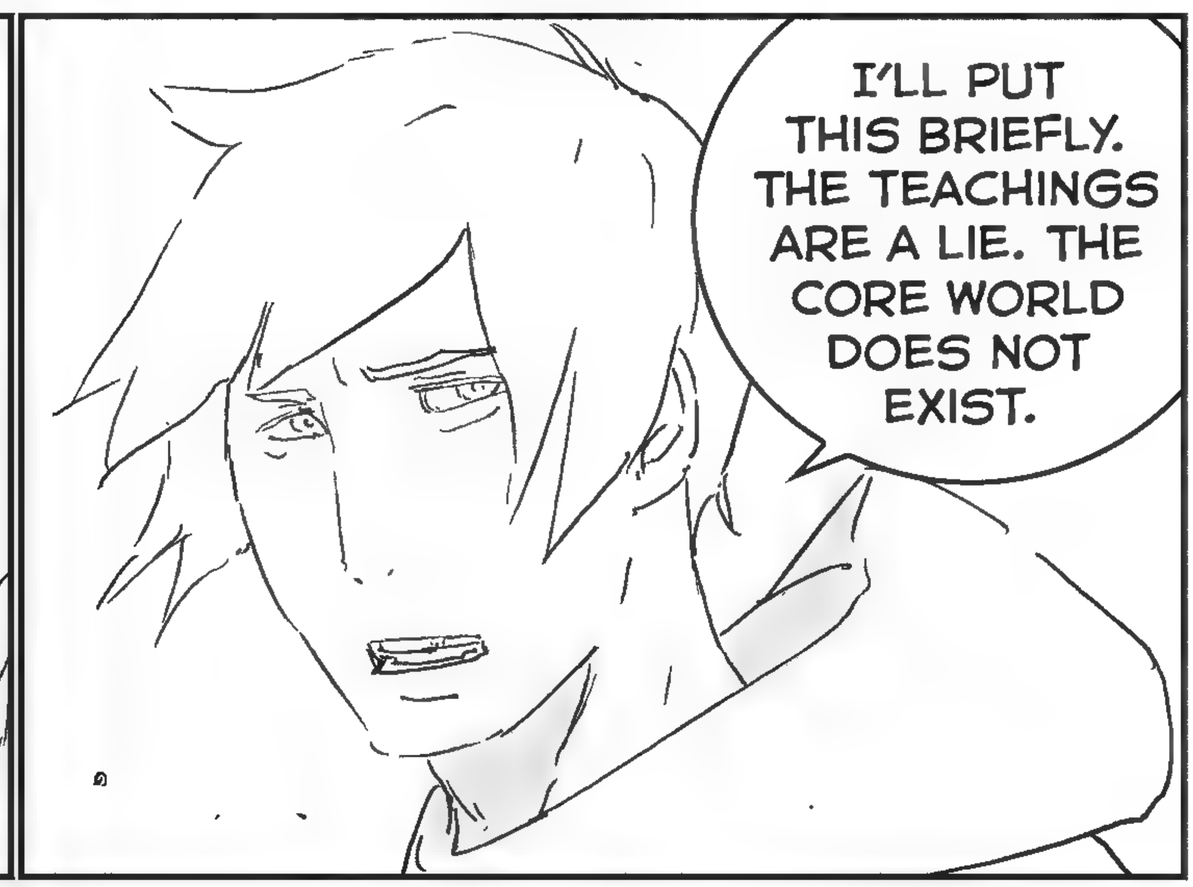


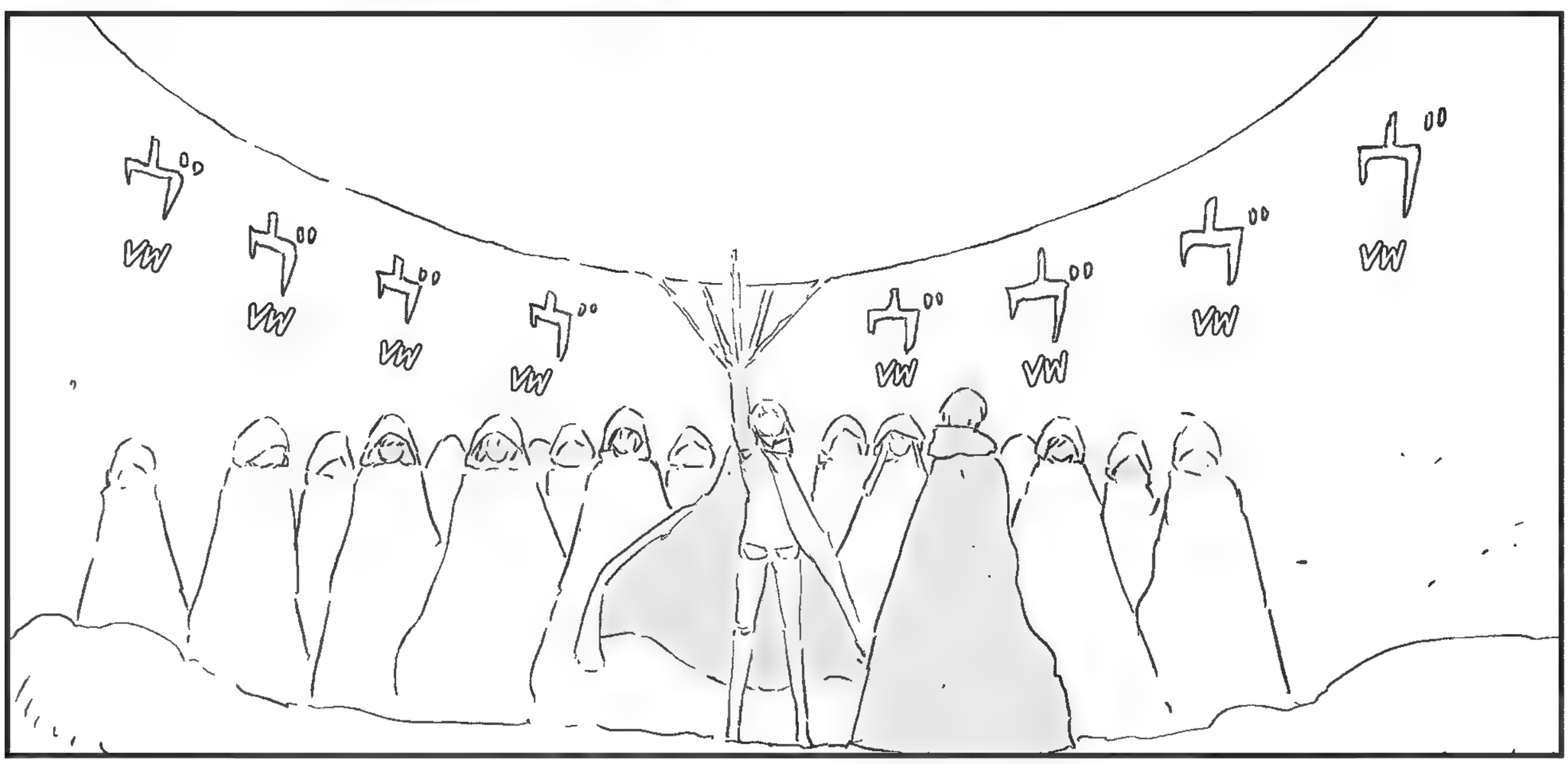

WE HAVE RETURNED ALL THE PEOPLE TO THE CORE.
IT'S OVER.

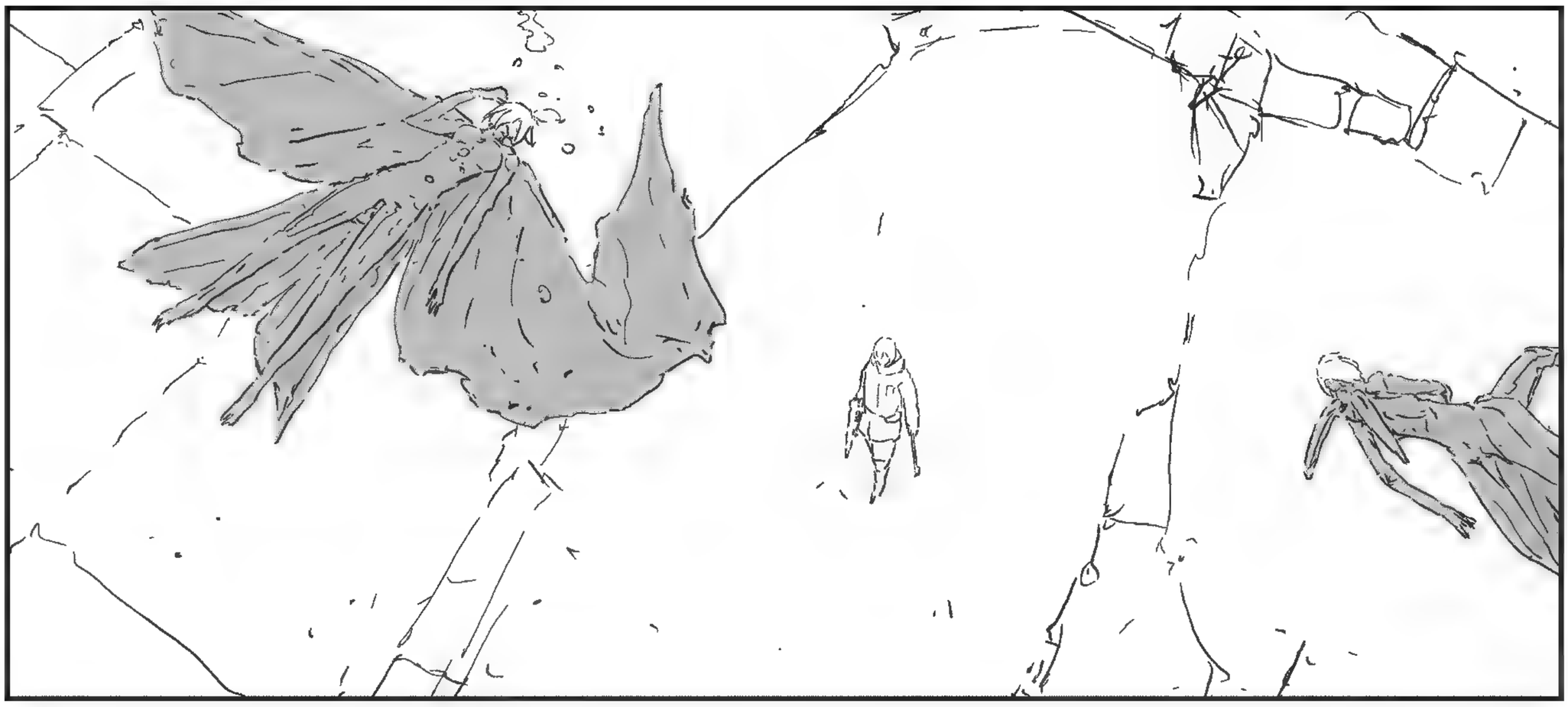

WE RECEIVED LIFE ONLY TEMPORARILY, AND WE, TOO, MUST RETURN.
THERE'S STILL ONE FINAL THING TO BE DONE.


NOW IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WAITING FOR THE EMPEROR AND ETHEROW TO DESTROY EACH OTHER.
THEN THE NATION OF THE FRAMES WILL BE COMPLETE.



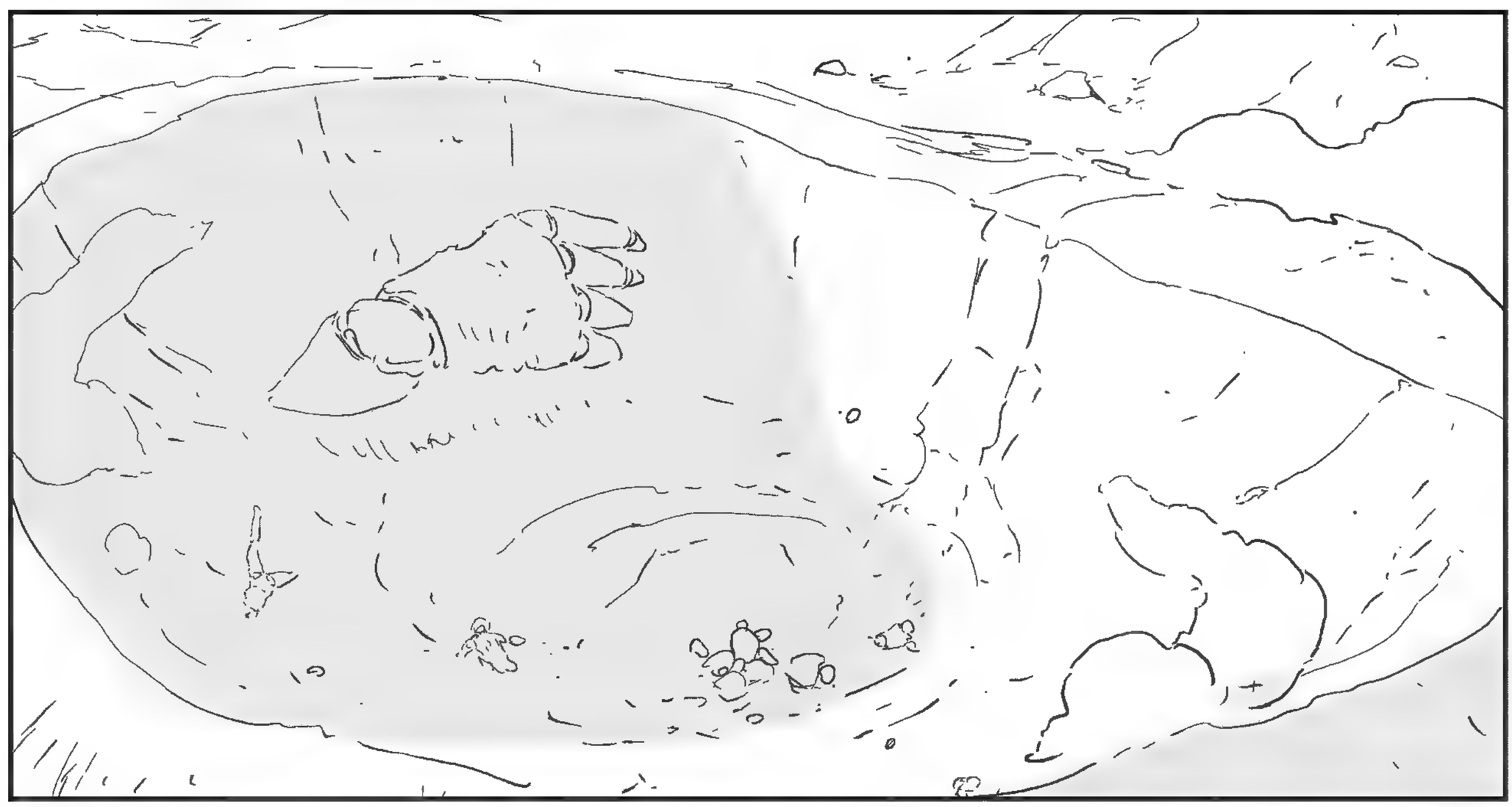

I'LL PUT THIS BRIEFLY. THE TEACHINGS ARE A LIE. THE CORE WORLD DOES NOT EXIST.

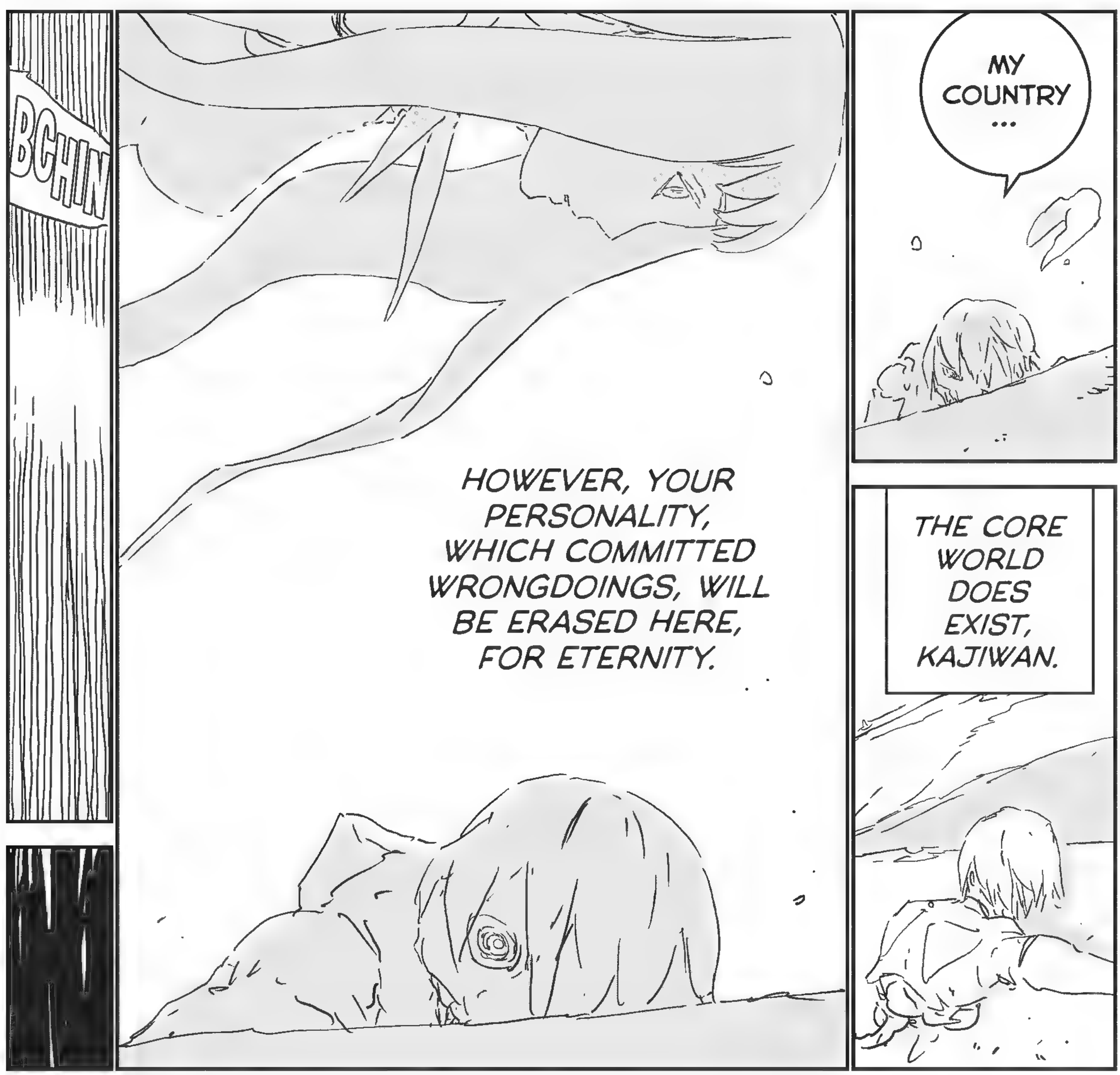


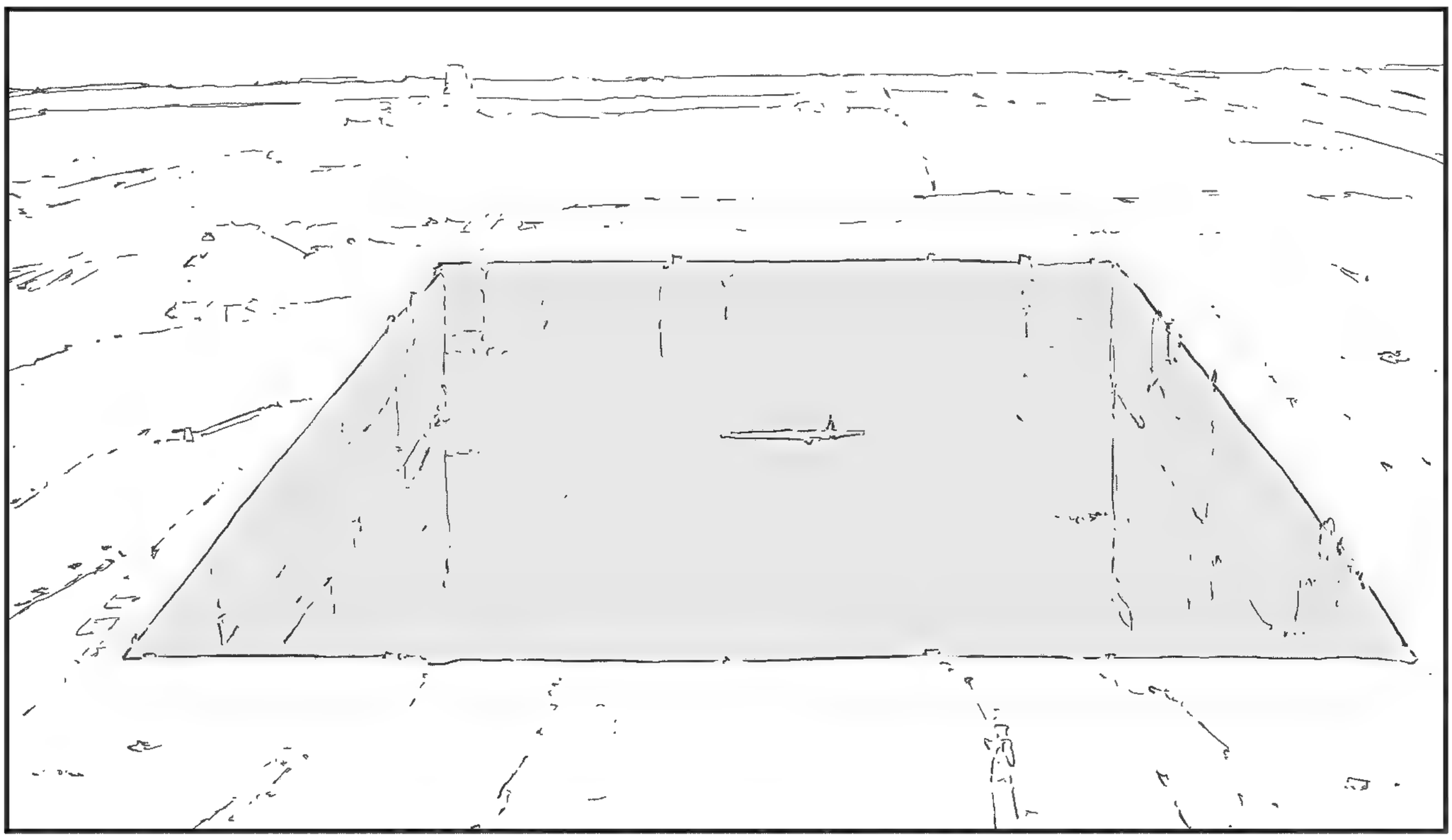


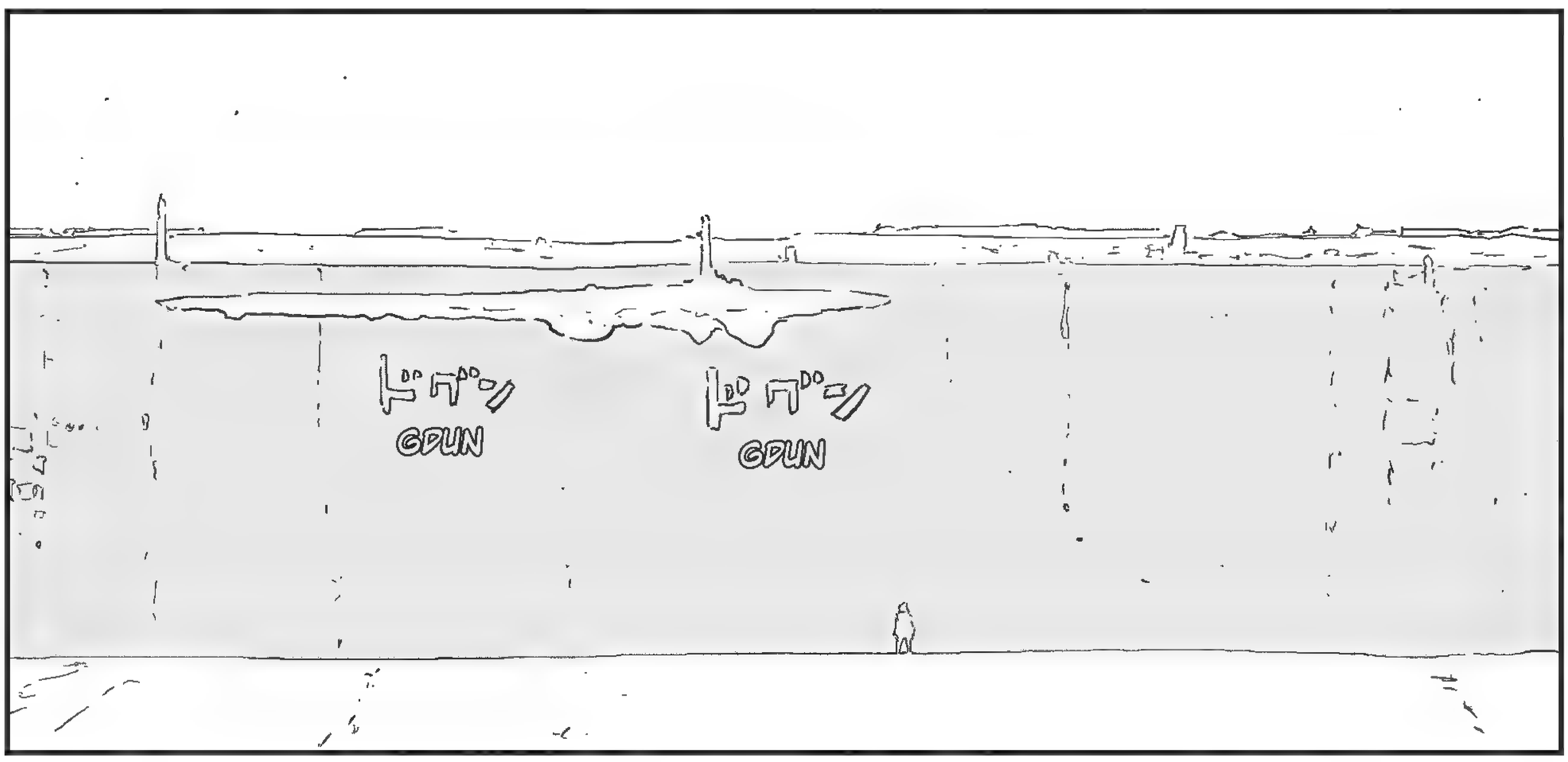
RRRR
MMBB

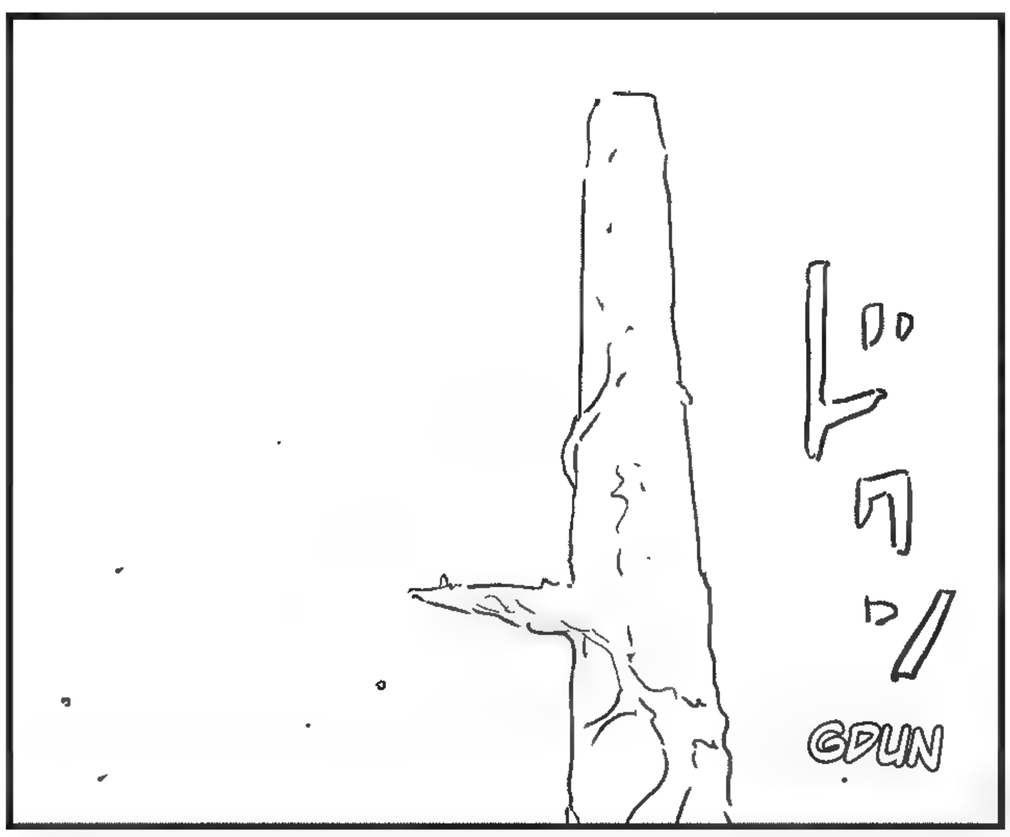
CHO
OOM

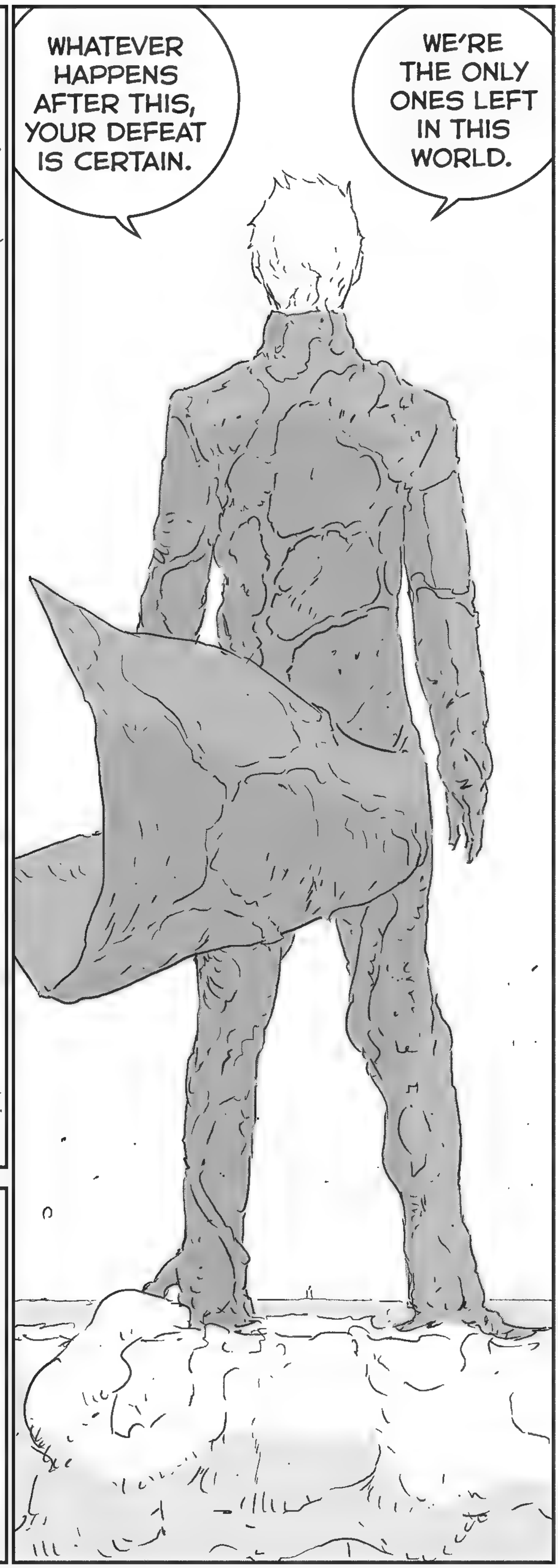


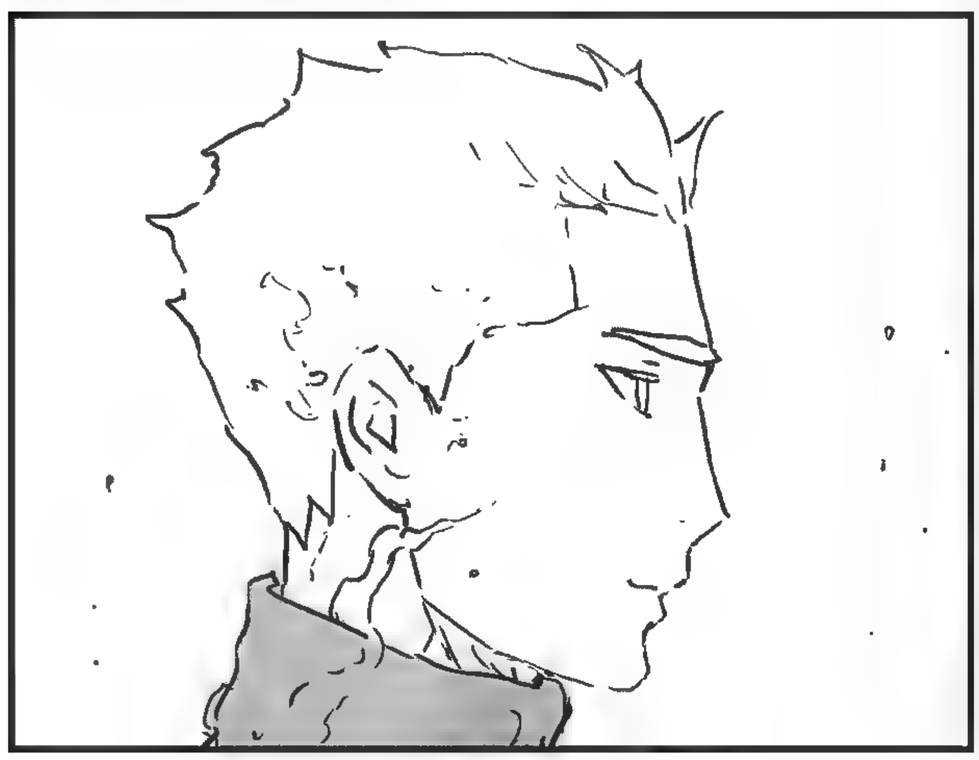

BCHIN
HOWEVER, YOUR PERSONALITY, WHICH COMMITTED WRONGDOINGS, WILL BE ERASED HERE, FOR ETERNITY.
MY COUNTRY ...
THE CORE WORLD DOES EXIST, KAJIWAN.

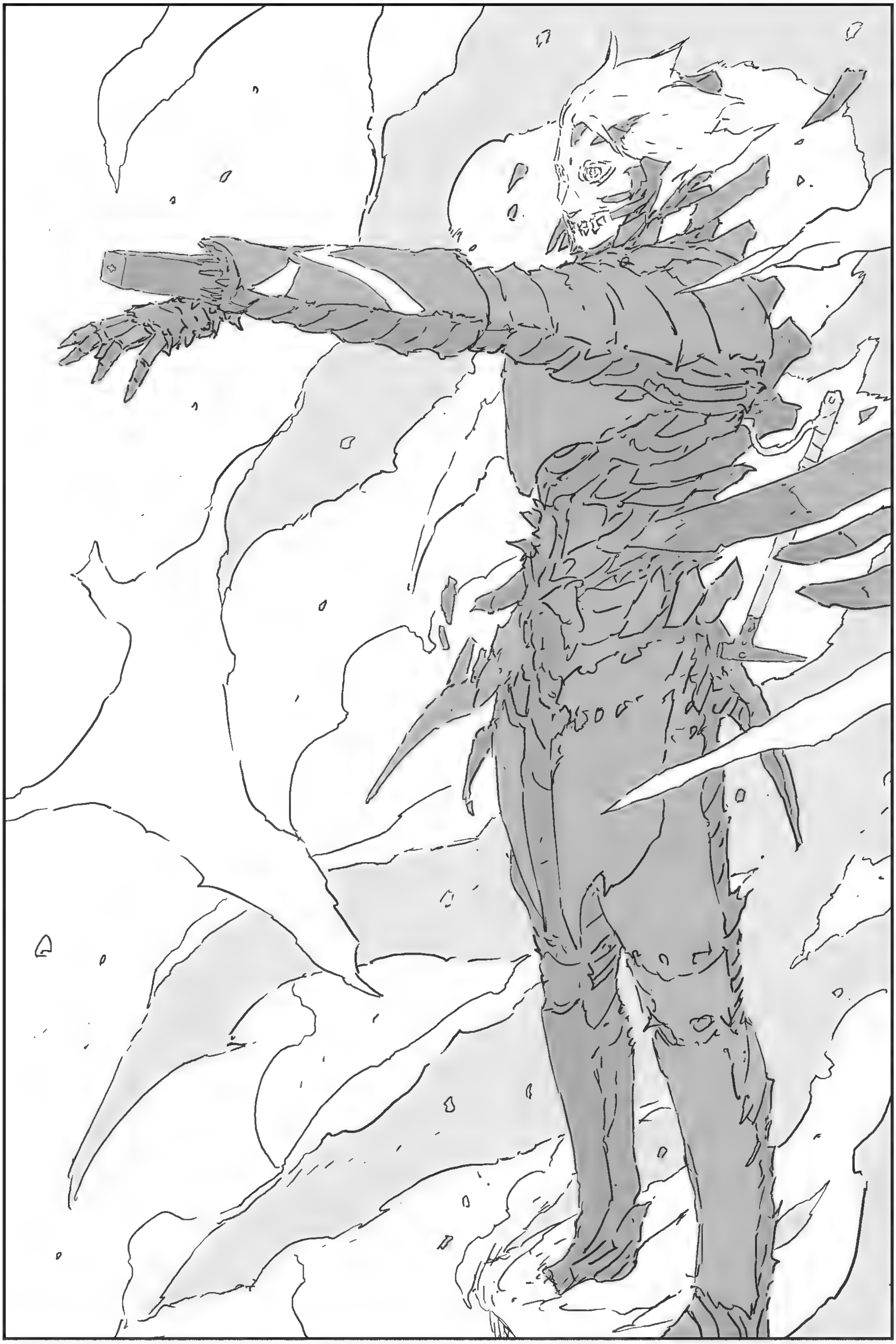


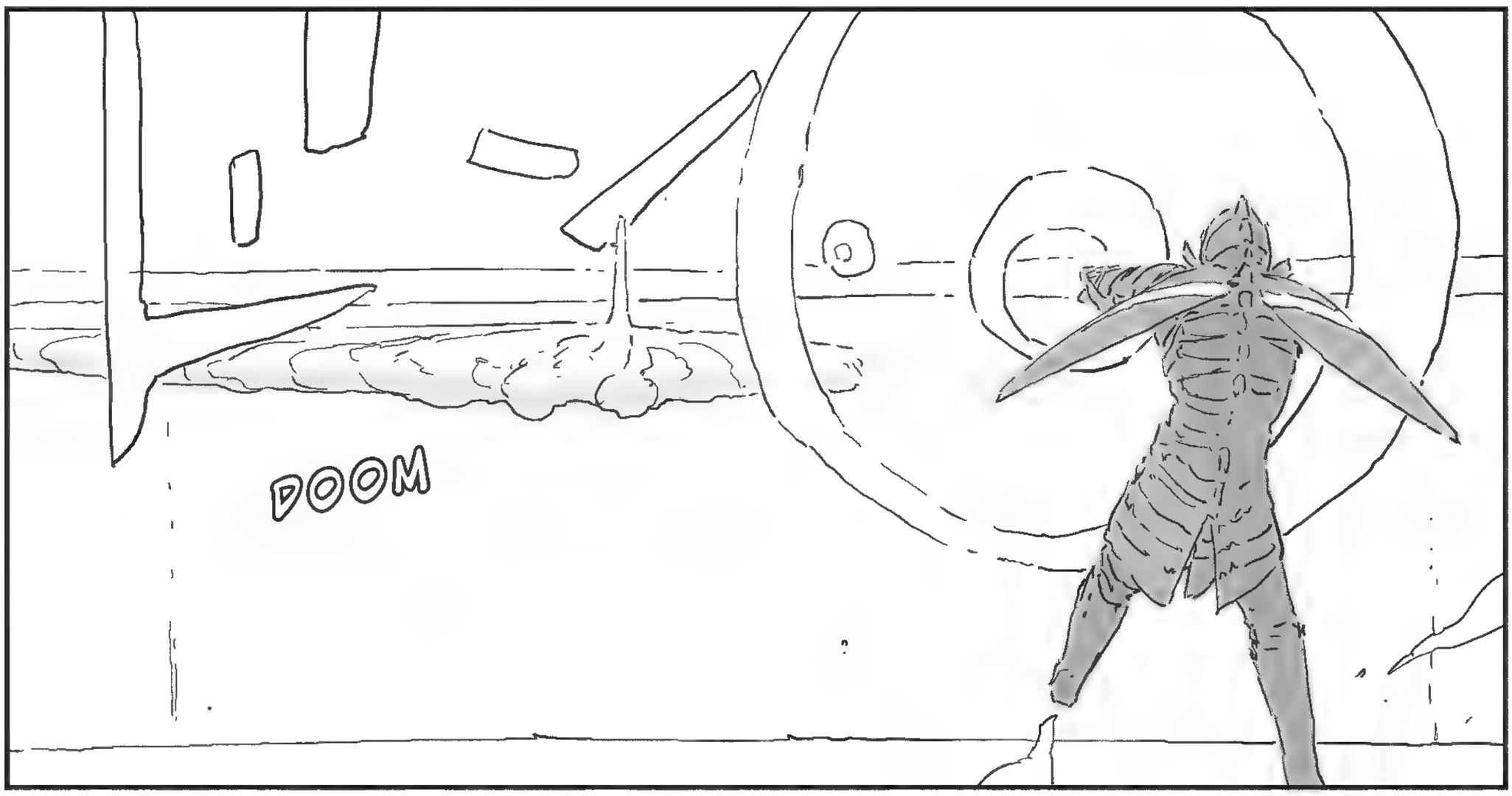

GDUN
GDUN

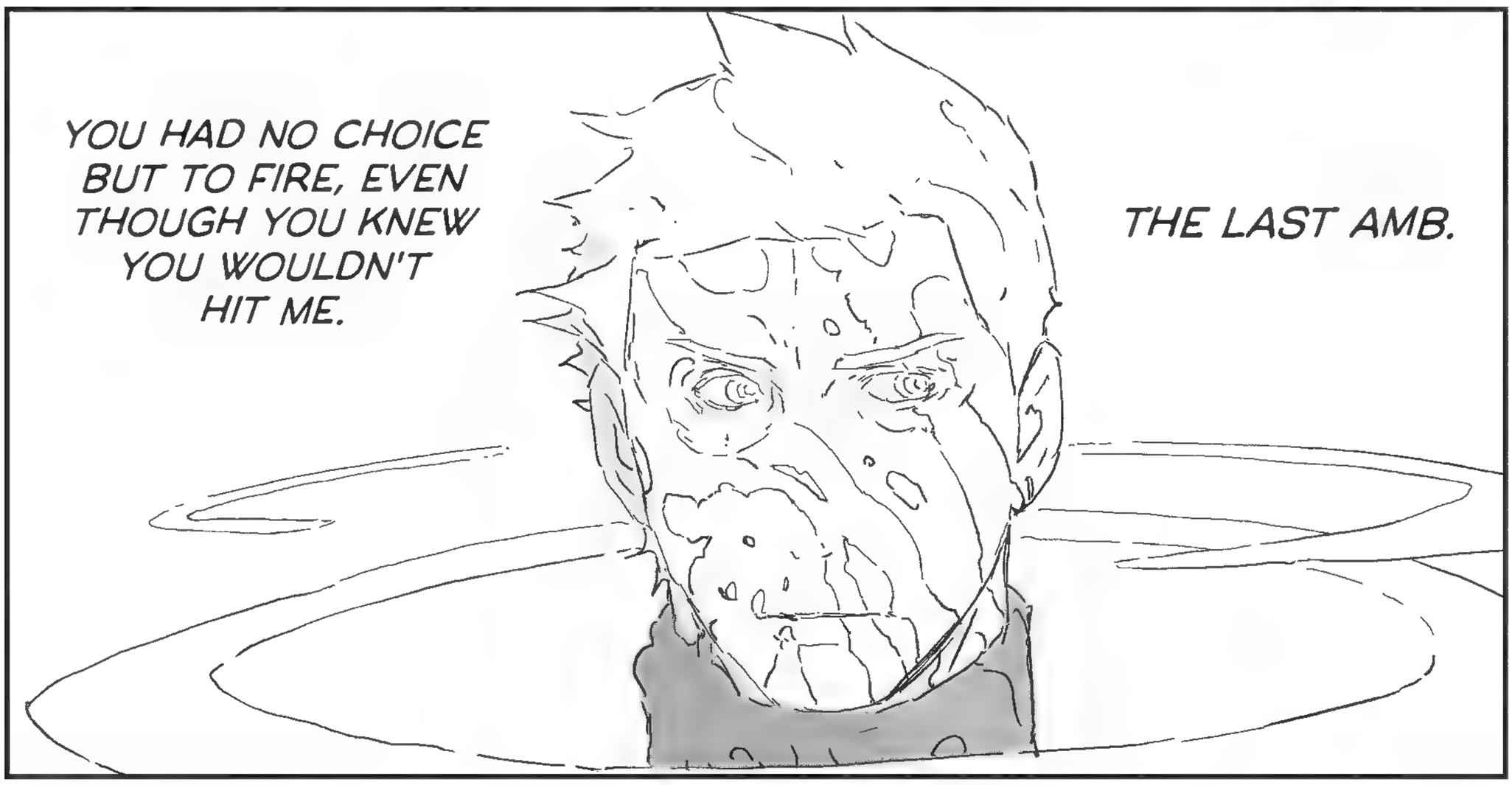

GDUN

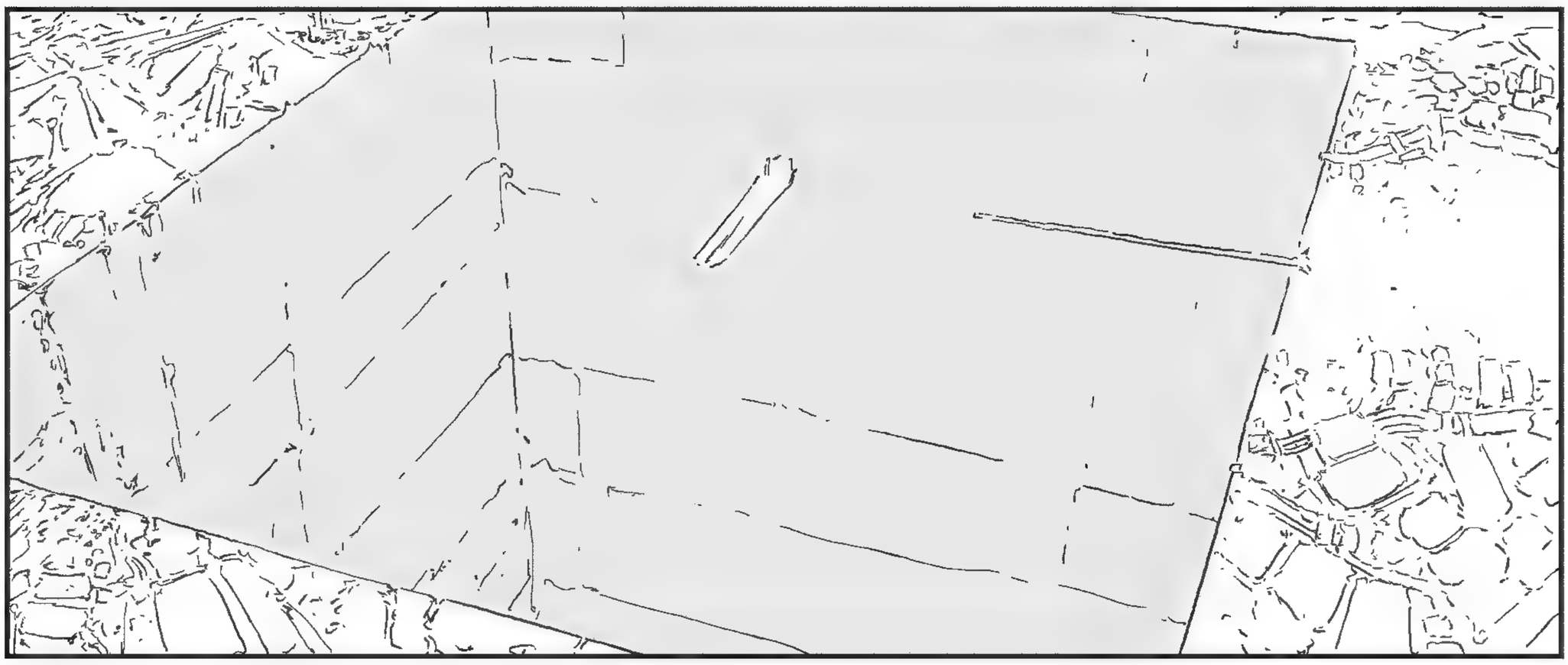

WHATEVER HAPPENS AFTER THIS, YOUR DEFEAT IS CERTAIN.
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT IN THIS WORLD.

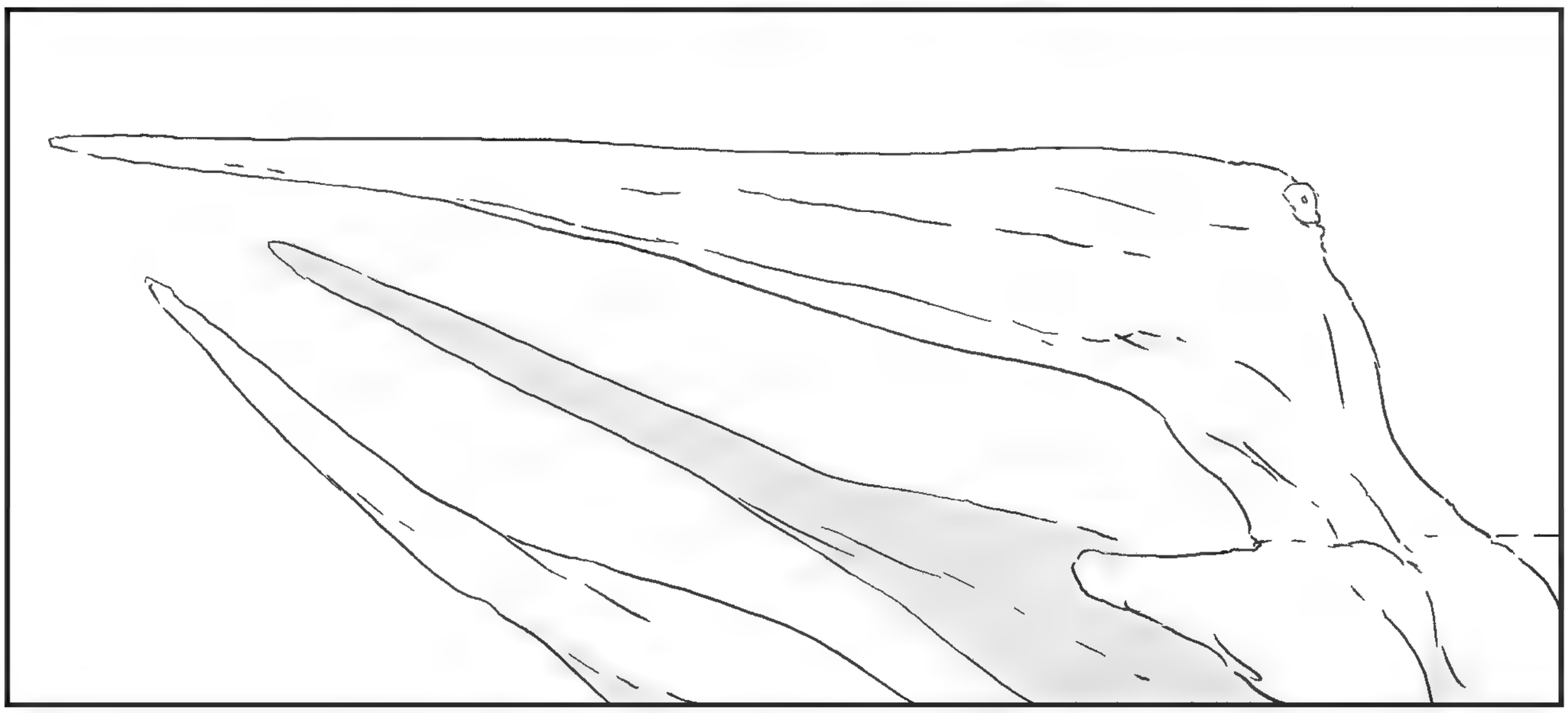


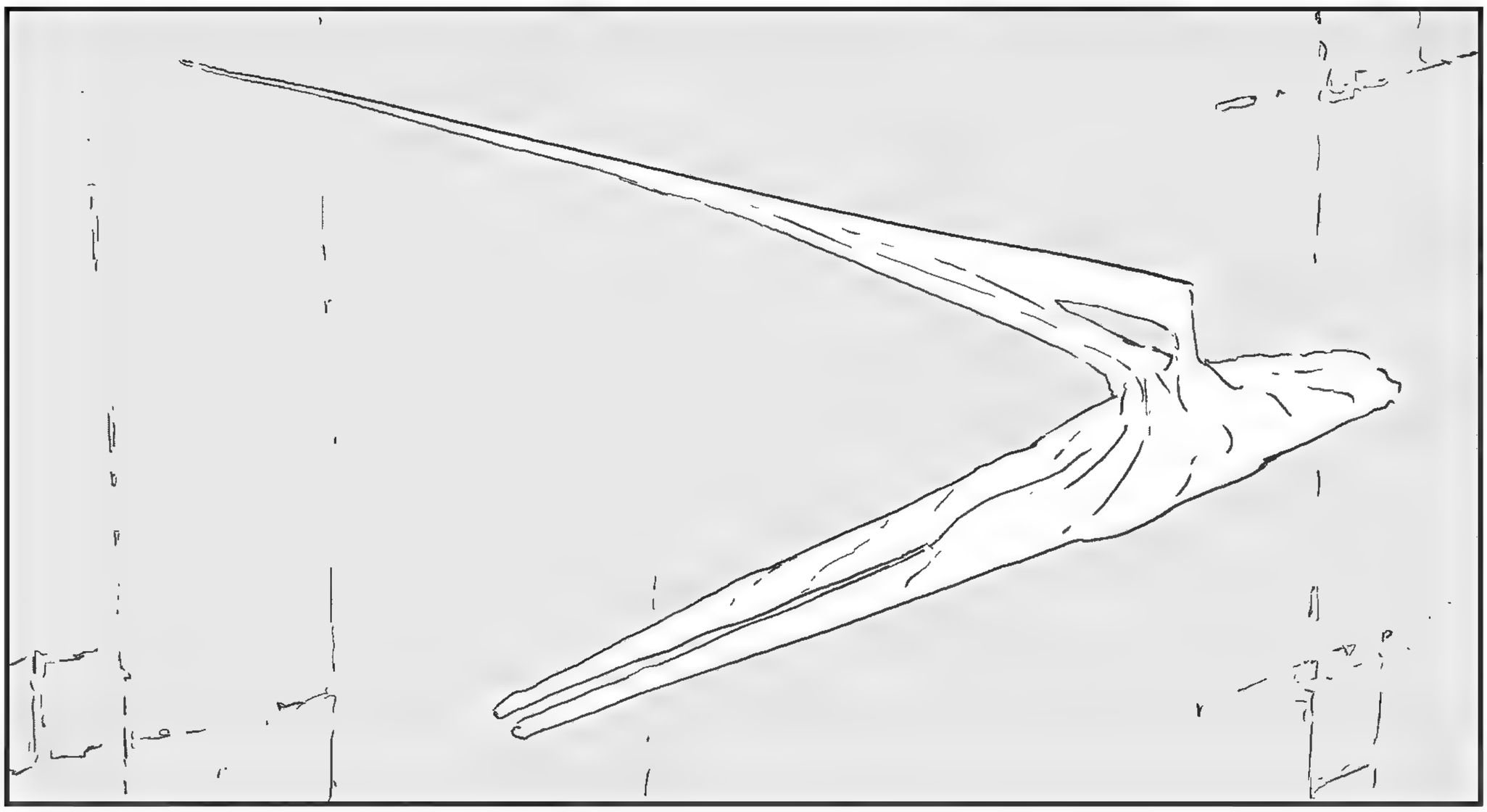



DOOM


YOU HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO FIRE, EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW YOU WOULDN'T HIT ME.
THE LAST AMB.







I'VE GOT THE AMB!
HA HA HA HA HA
GREE
GREE
GREE
GREE
GYUURM
HA HA HA HA
THE SHIP IS CHANGING SHAPE!
GREE
GREE
GREE

HE'S DUMPED HIS FLOATING MATERIAL!

HE INTENDS TO PLUMMET!

HE'S CERTAIN TO SMASH THROUGH THE CRUST!

HE'LL REACH SUCH TREMENDOUS SPEED THAT HE'LL SMASH INTO APOSIMZ'S CRUST!

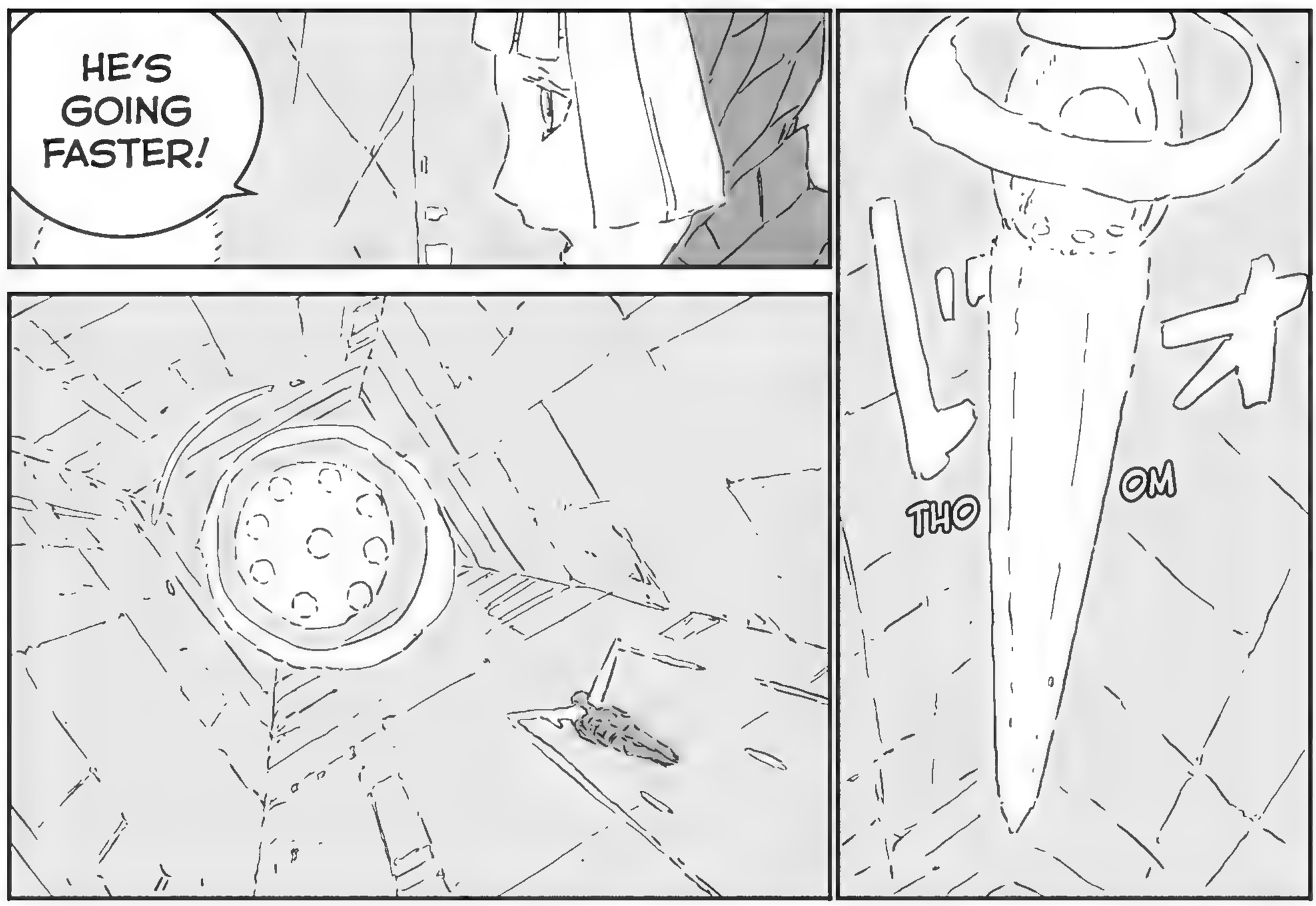
AT THIS RATE, IF HE GETS TO THE BOTTOM OF THE HOLE,

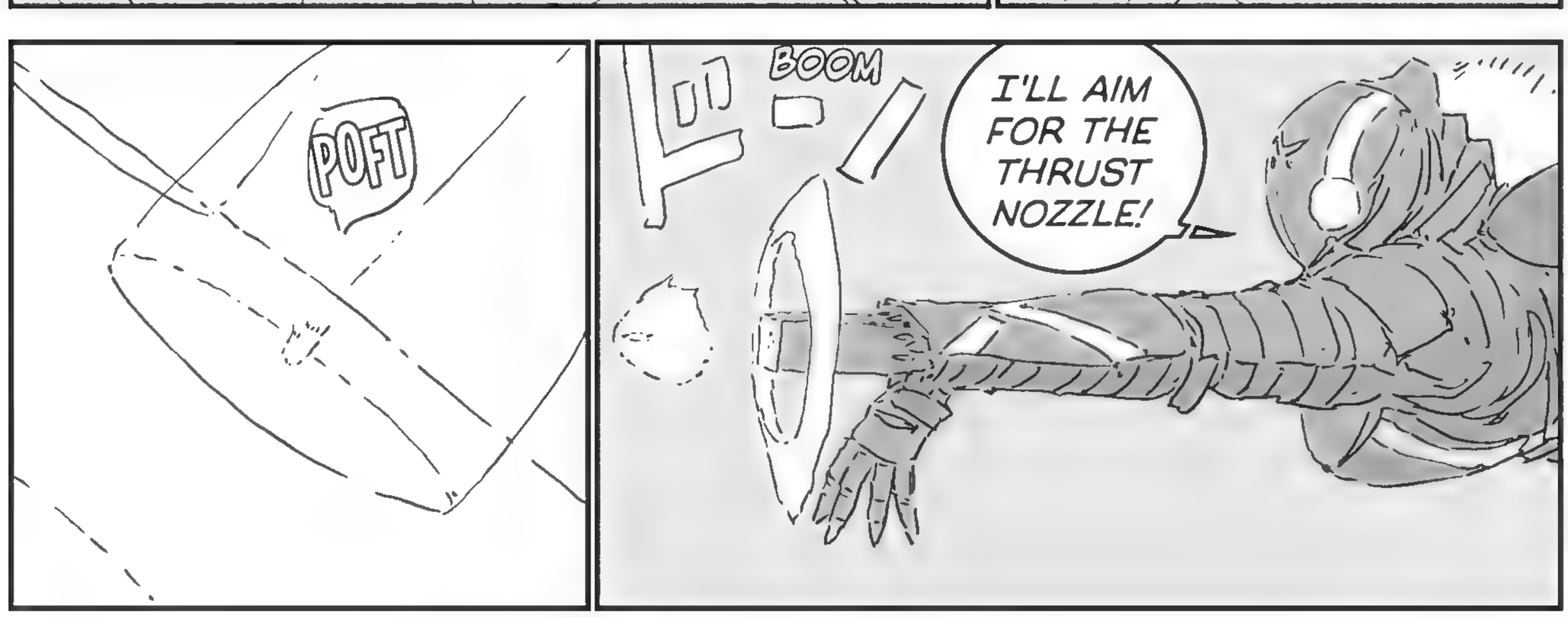
IT'S A HUGE MASS FORMED OF SEMI-MEGA-STRUCTURE AND PLACENTA ...

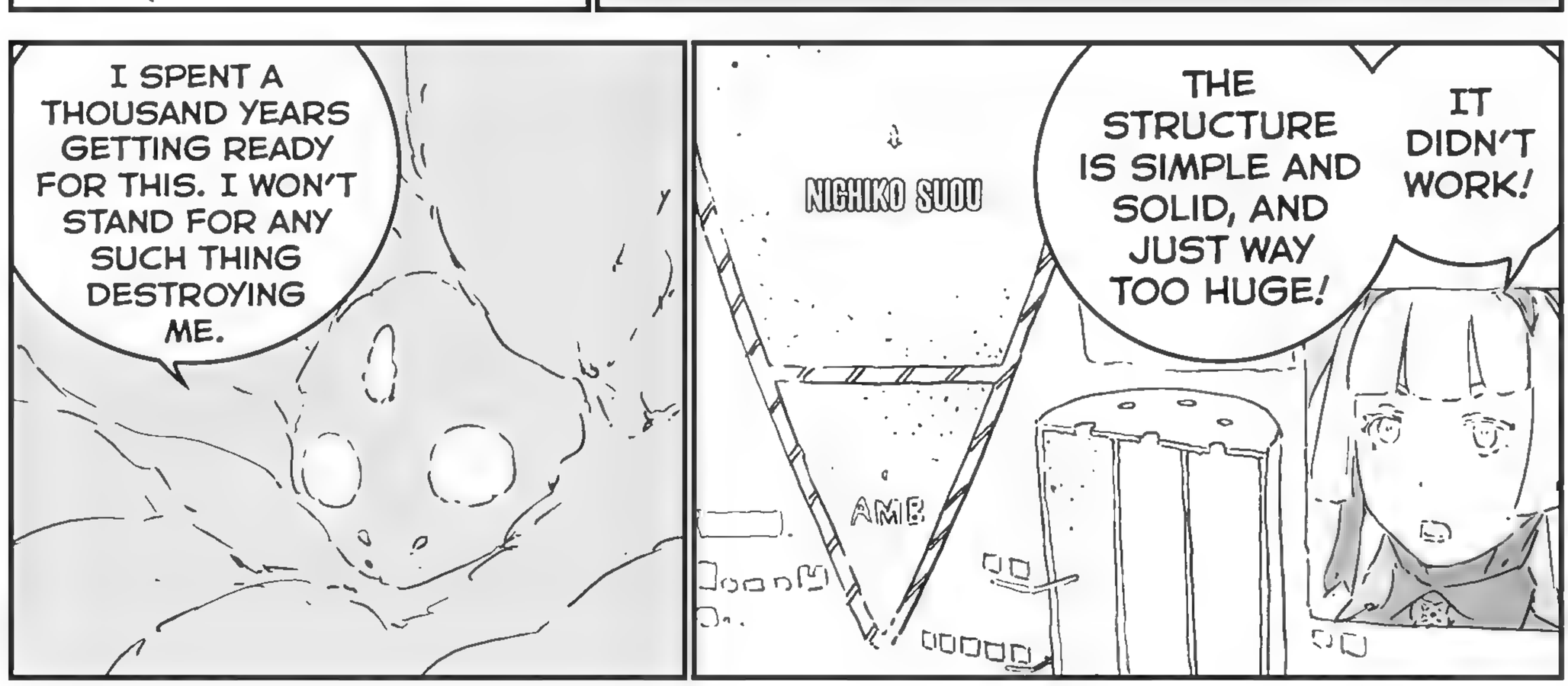
AMB

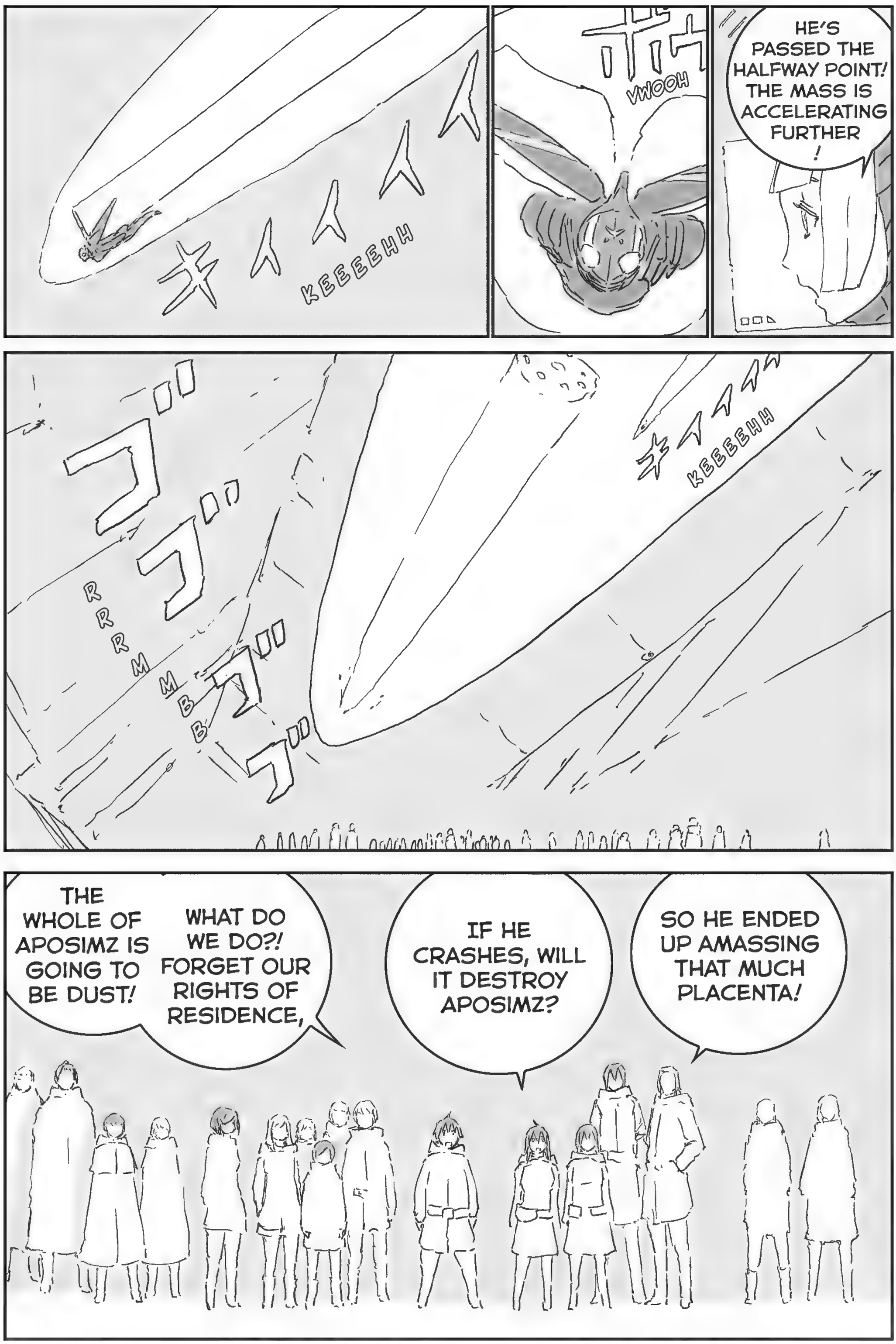
AND WHAT'S MORE, IT'S GOT AN AMB IN ITS TIP!!

WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF HE HITS IT?


HE'S GOING FASTER!
THO
OM


POFT
BOOM
I'LL AIM FOR THE THRUST NOZZLE!


I SPENT A THOUSAND YEARS GETTING READY FOR THIS. I WON'T STAND FOR ANY SUCH THING DESTROYING ME.
NICHIKO SUOU
THE STRUCTURE IS SIMPLE AND SOLID, AND JUST WAY TOO HUGE!
IT DIDN'T WORK!


KEEEEHH
VWOOH
HE'S PASSED THE HALFWAY POINT! THE MASS IS ACCELERATING FURTHER!
KEEEEHH
RRRM
MBB
THE WHOLE OF APOSIMZ IS GOING TO BE DUST!
WHAT DO WE DO?! FORGET OUR RIGHTS OF RESIDENCE,
IF HE CRASHES, WILL IT DESTROY APOSIMZ?
SO HE ENDED UP AMASSING THAT MUCH PLACENTA!

IF SHE DID, THEN HER CUSTODIAN PERSONALITY MUST BE DEFECTIVE.

SHE WOULDN'T PUT APOSIMZ IN DANGER FOR THE SAKE OF THE RESIDENCE RIGHTS OF THE SURFACE PEOPLE.

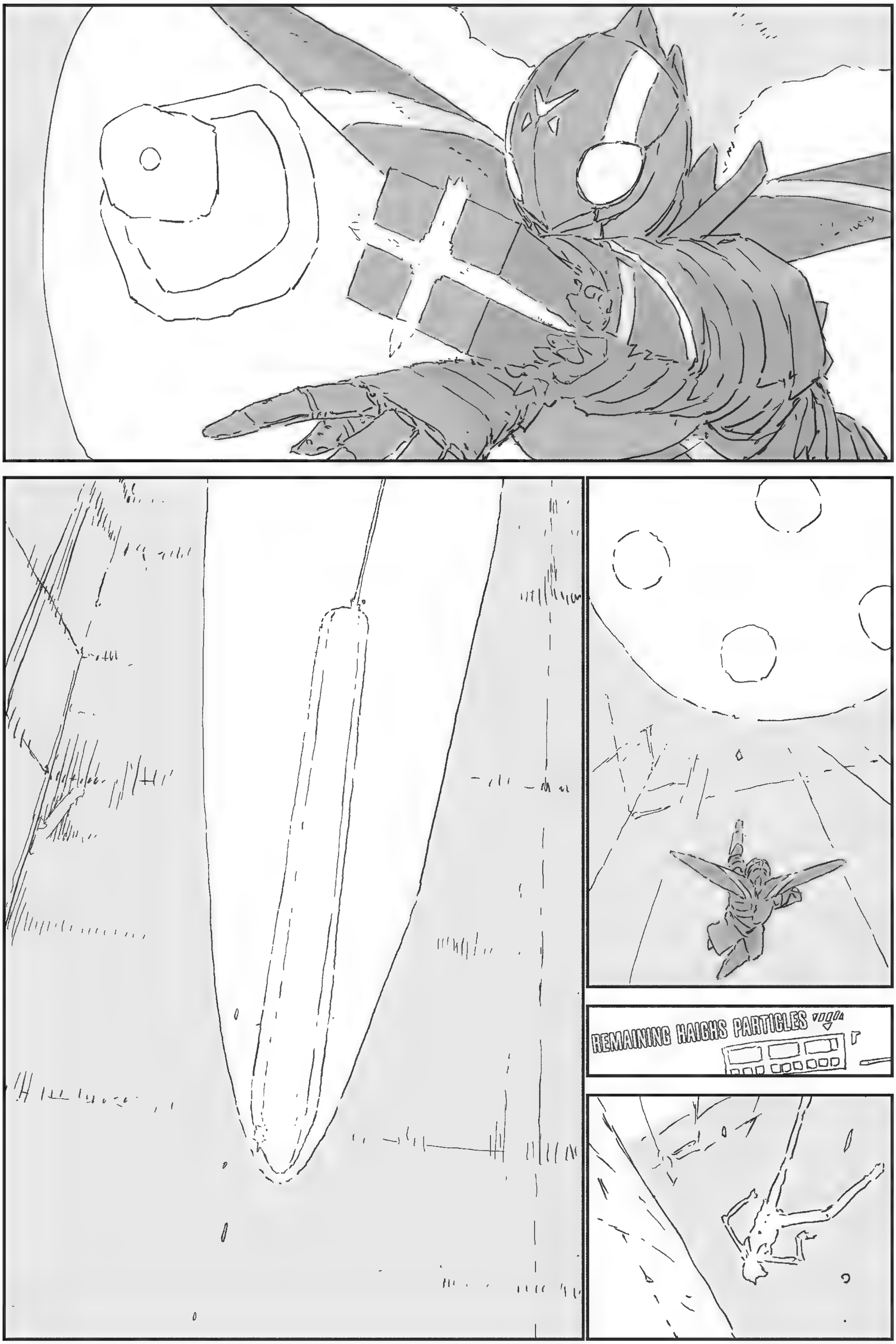
IF THE EMPEROR HAD THAT KIND OF POWER, THE GOD OF THE CORE WOULD HAVE INTERVENED ALREADY AND DEALT WITH THE SITUATION!

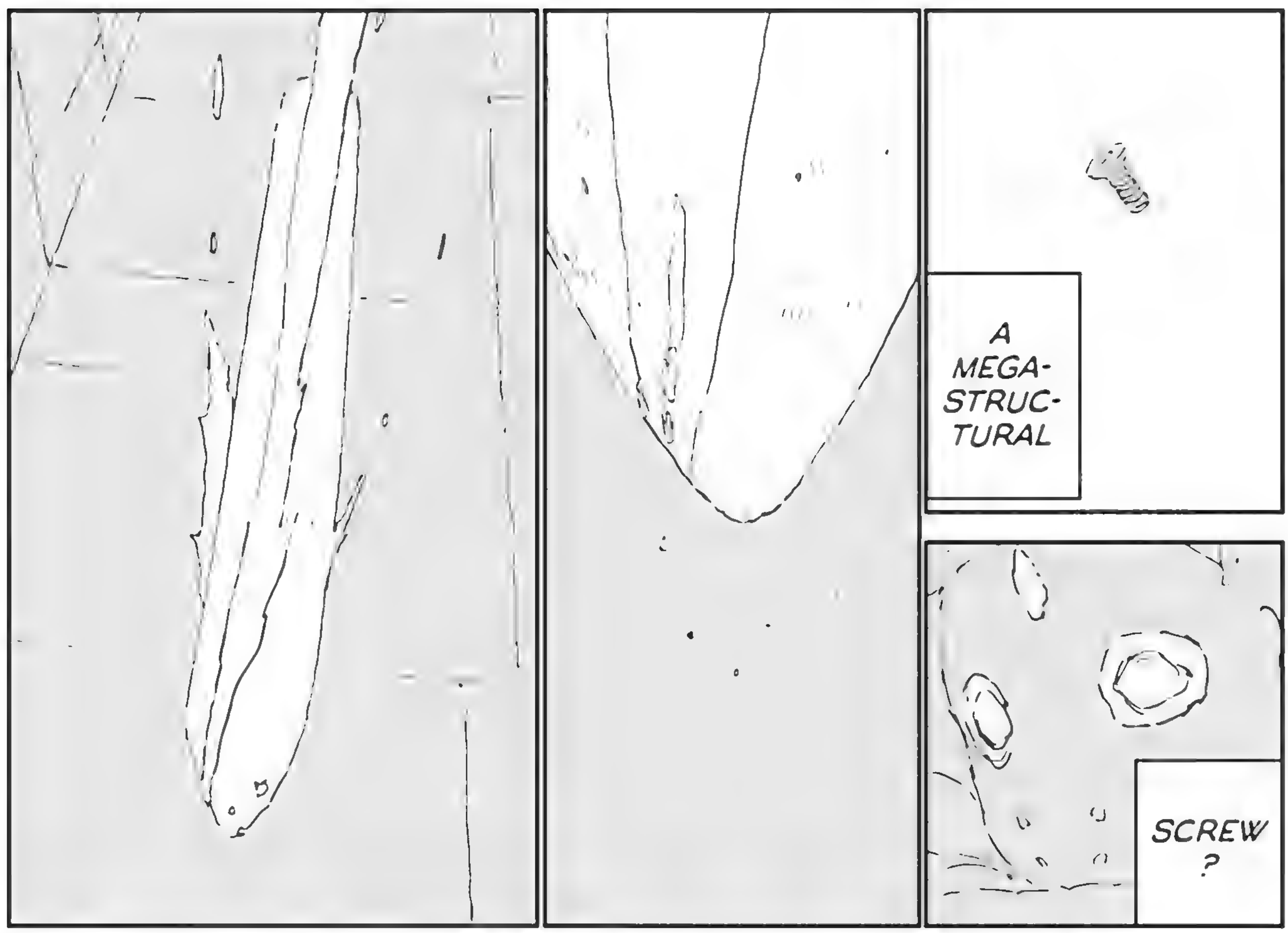
YOU REALLY ARE A FOOL.

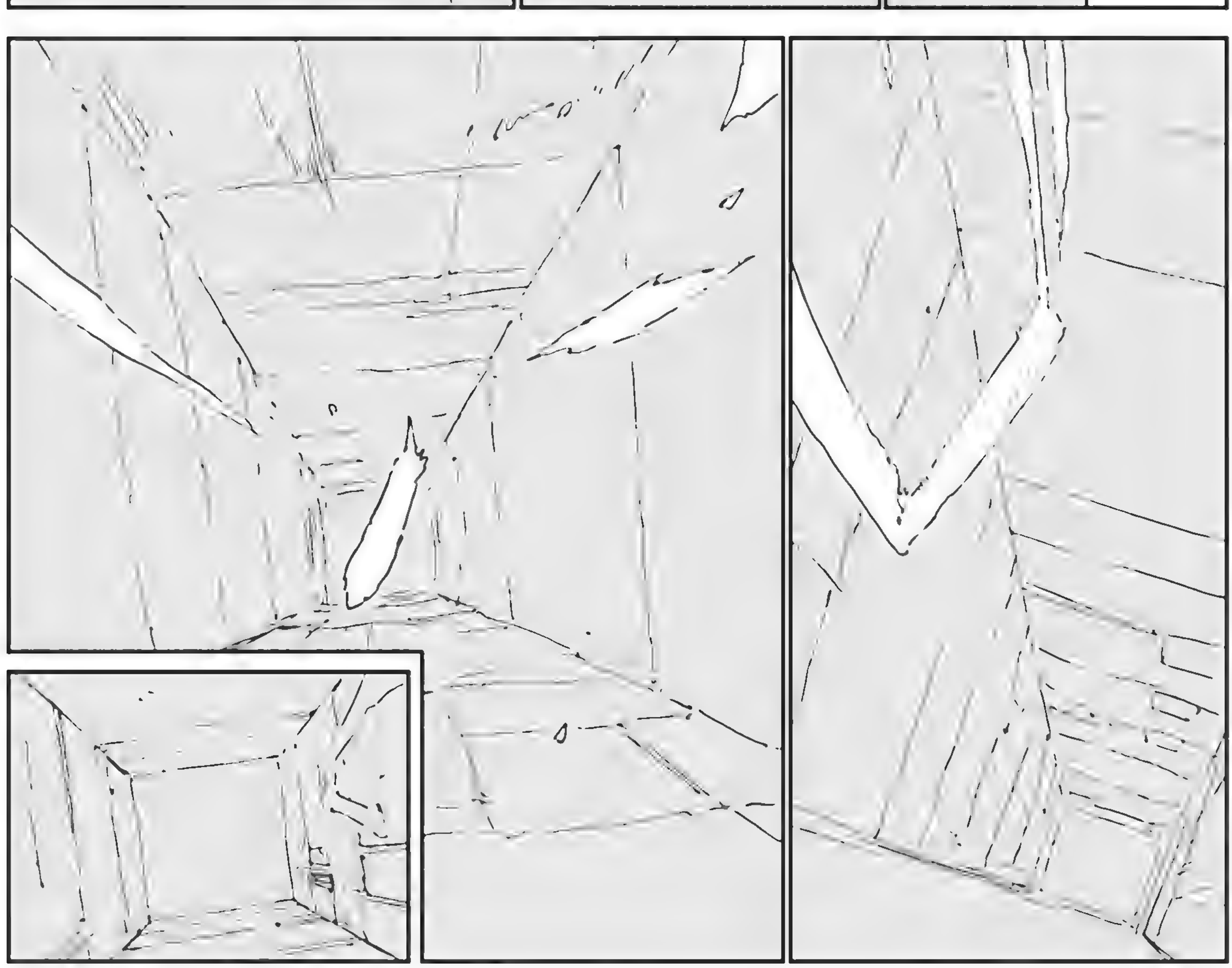
IT'S POSSIBLE ...

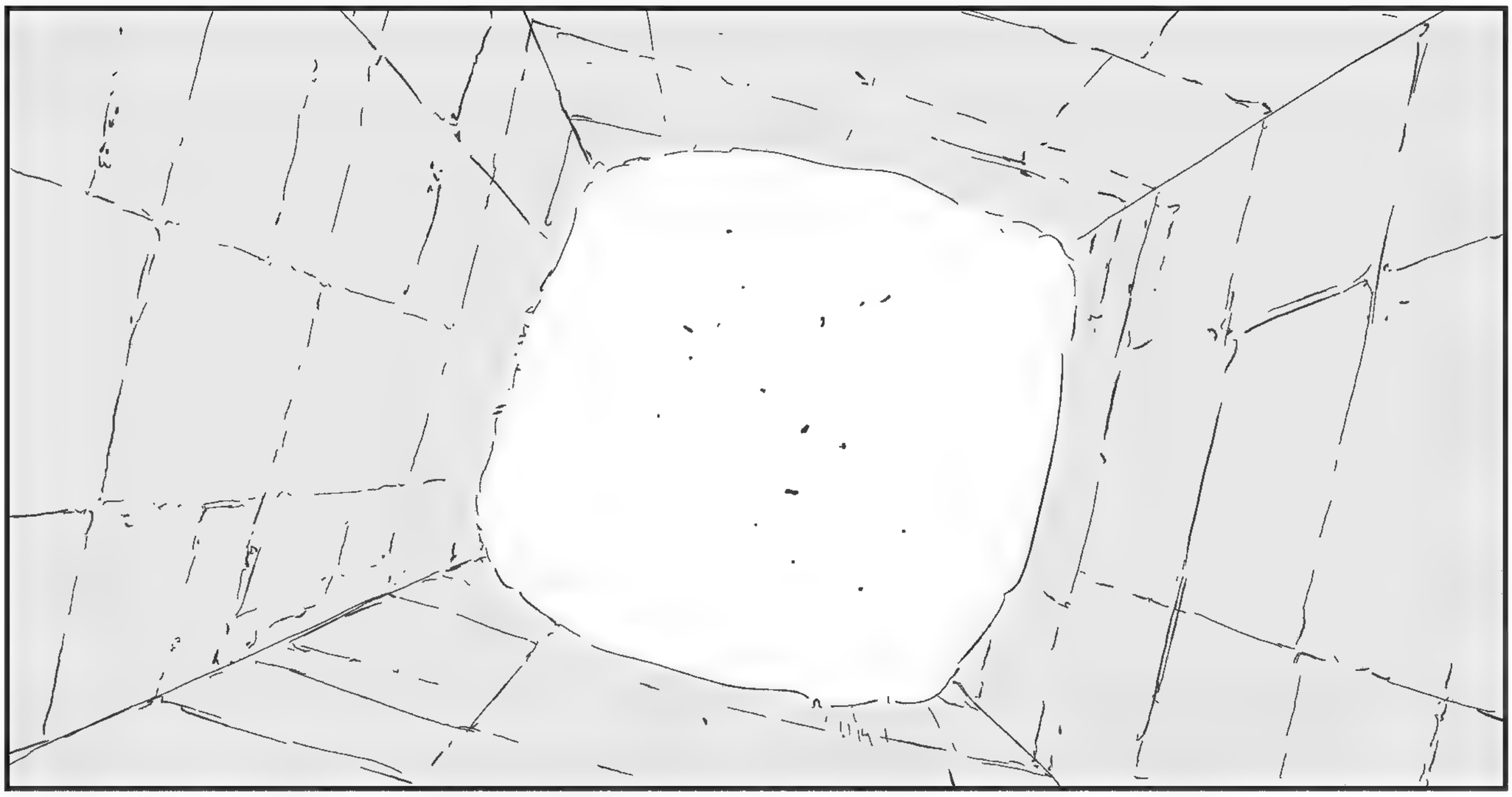
CAN PROTECT APOSIMZ.

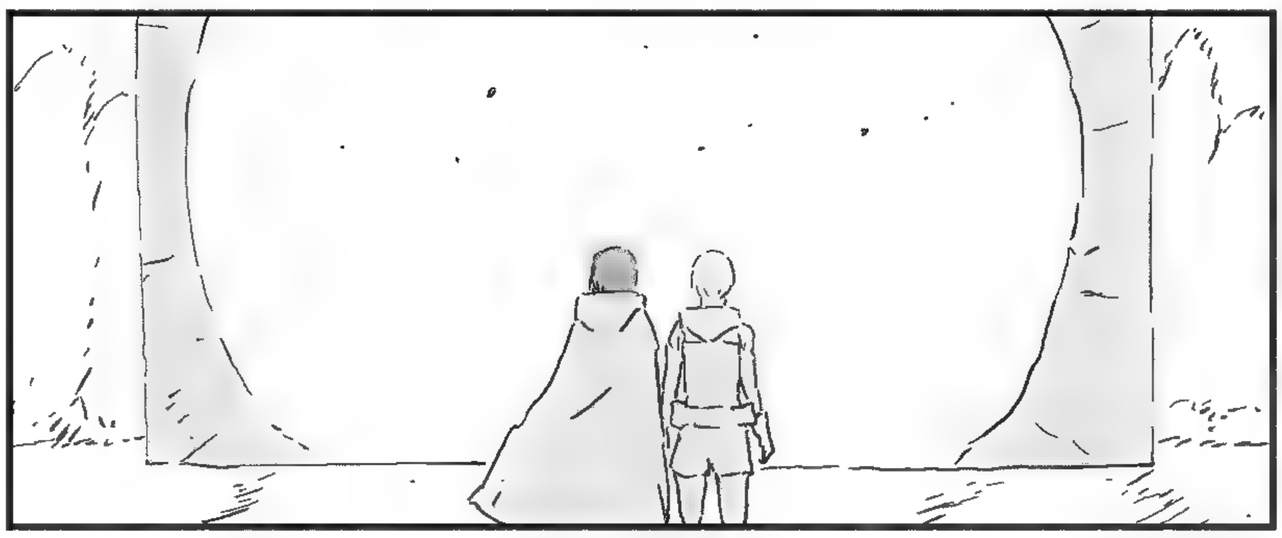
I DON'T GET IT. MAYBE SHE BELIEVES THAT ETHEROW

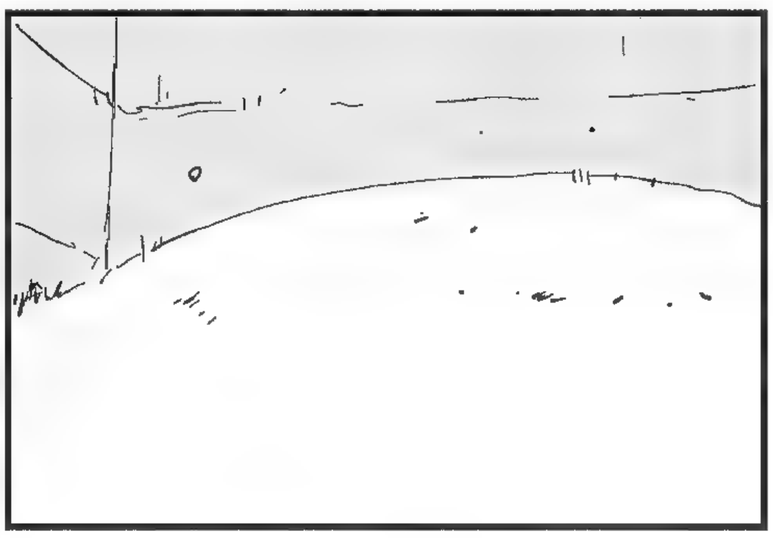

REMAINING HAIGHS PARTICLES

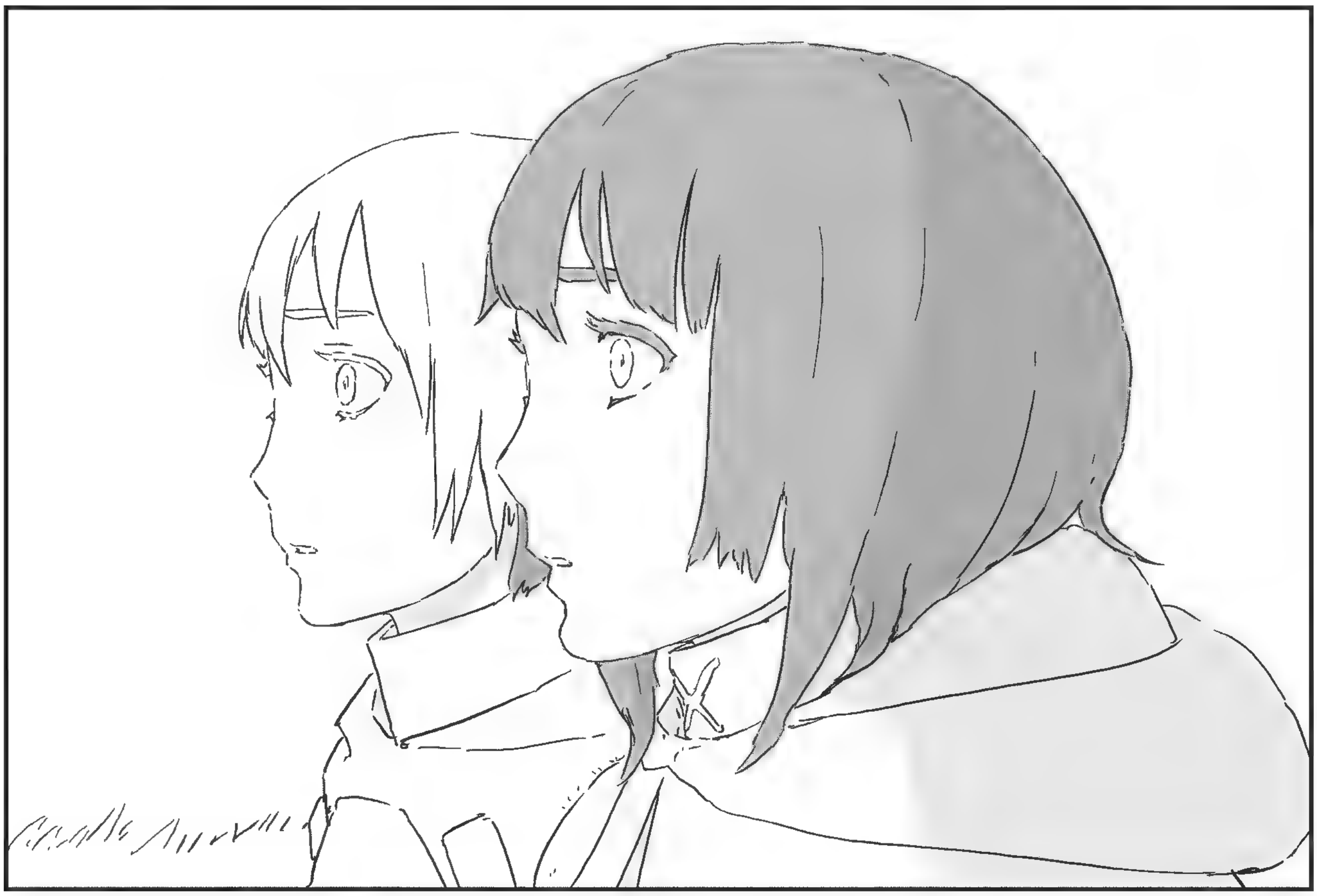

A MEGA-STRUC-TURAL
SCREW ?

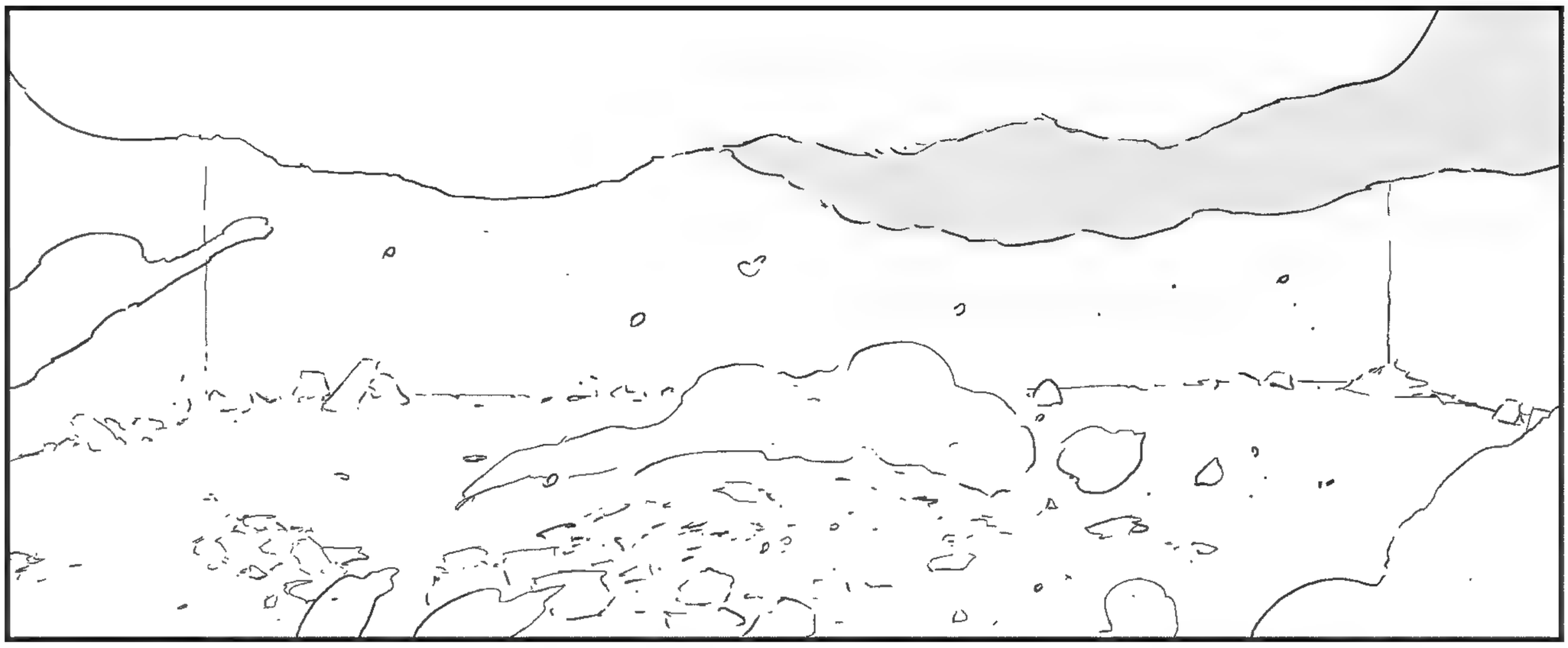


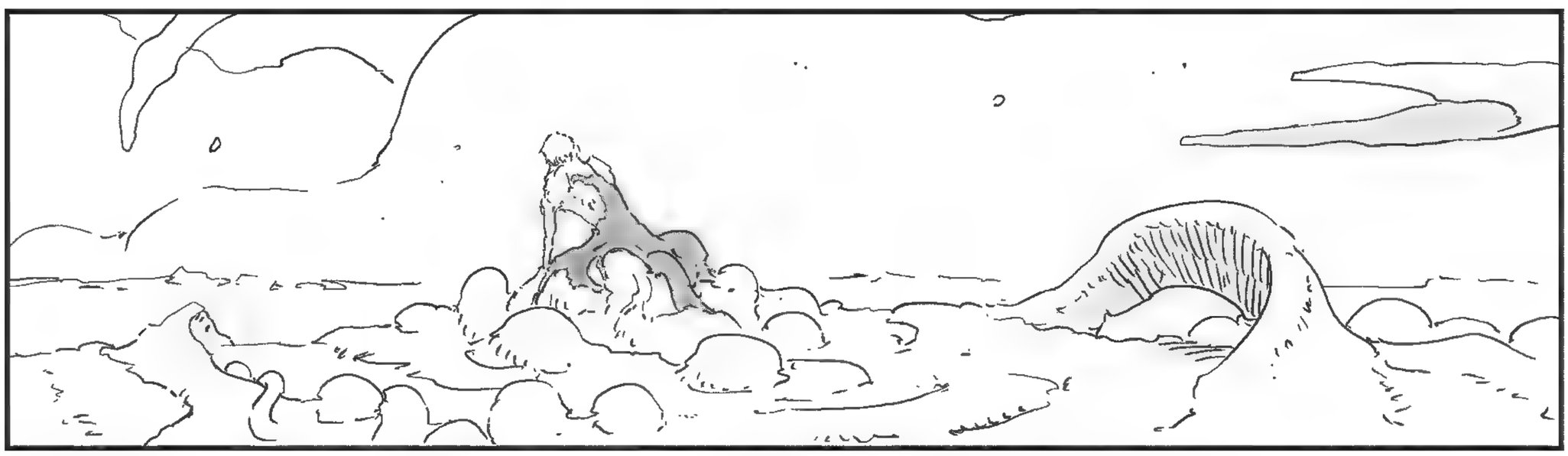


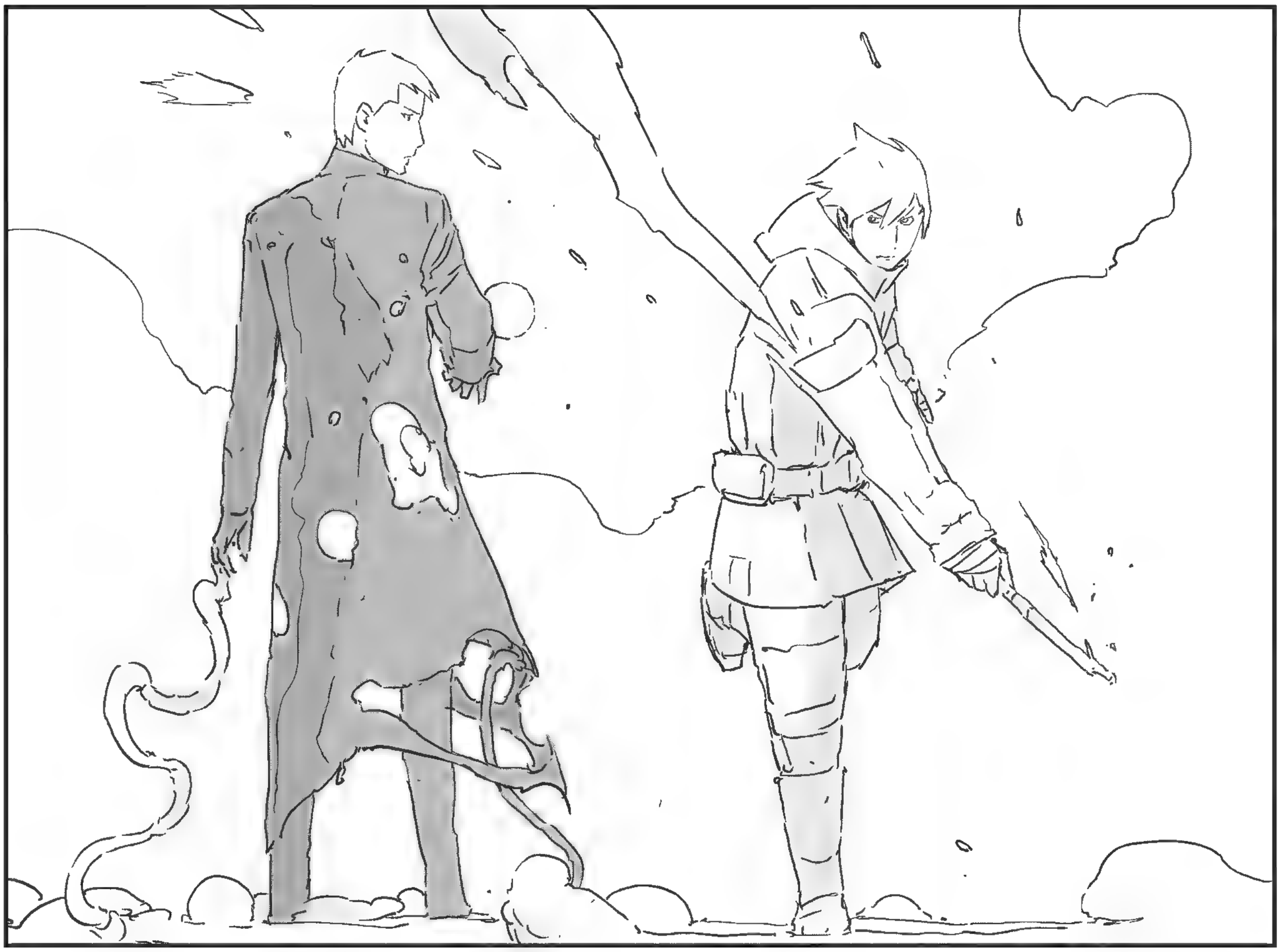


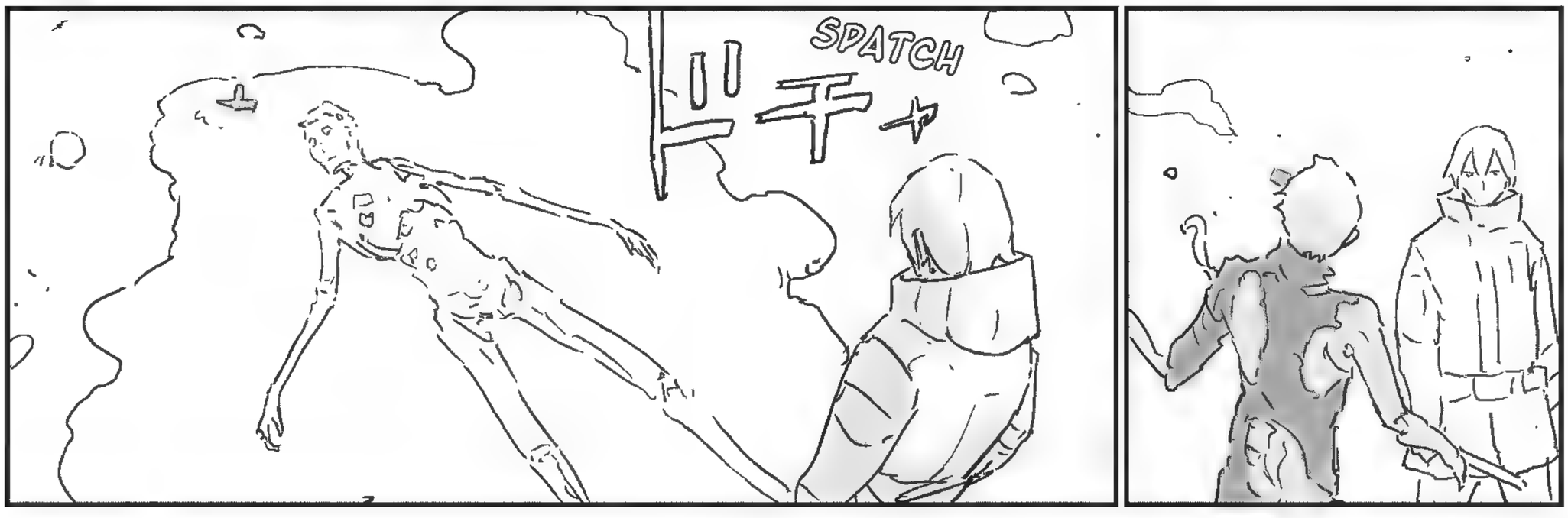


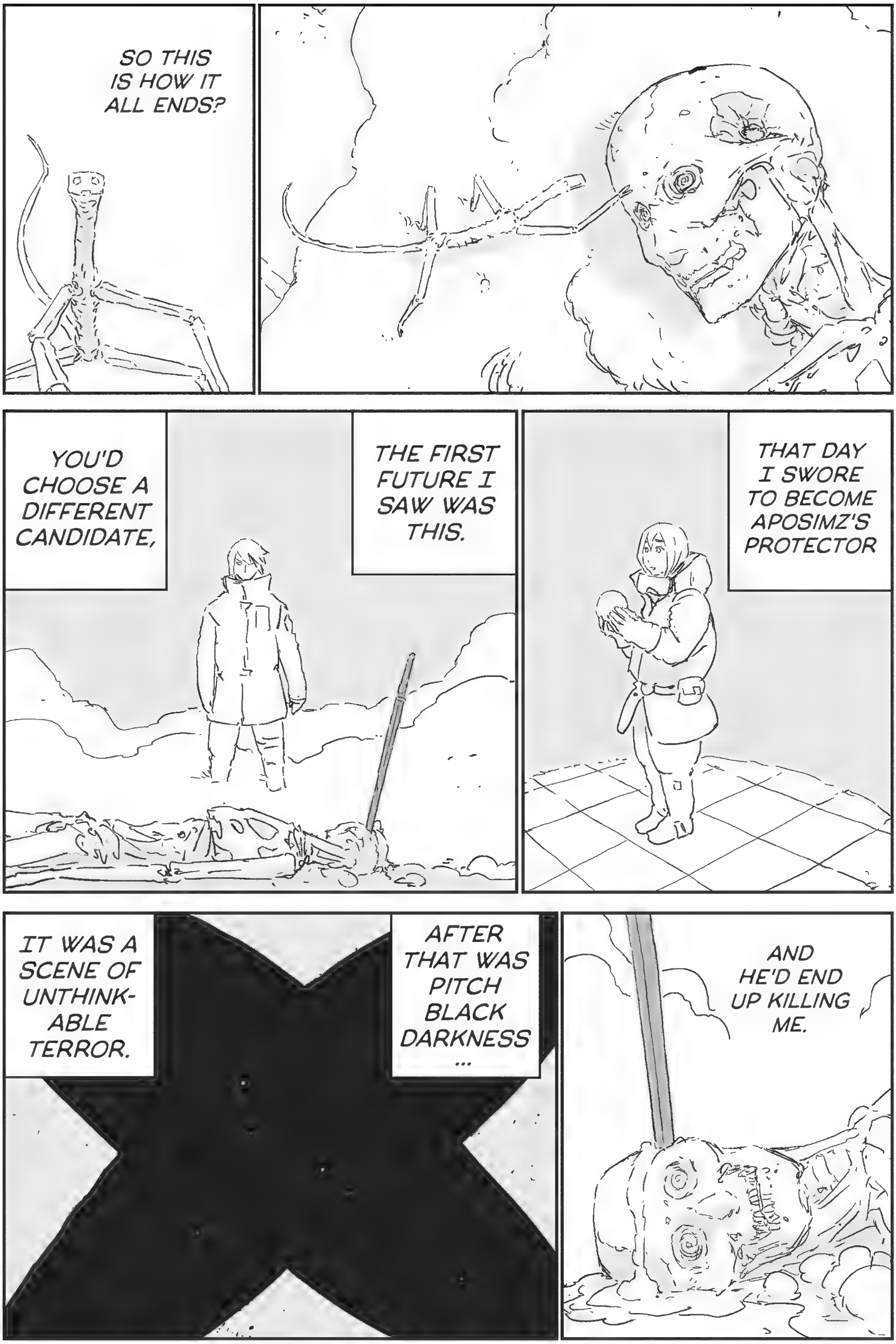


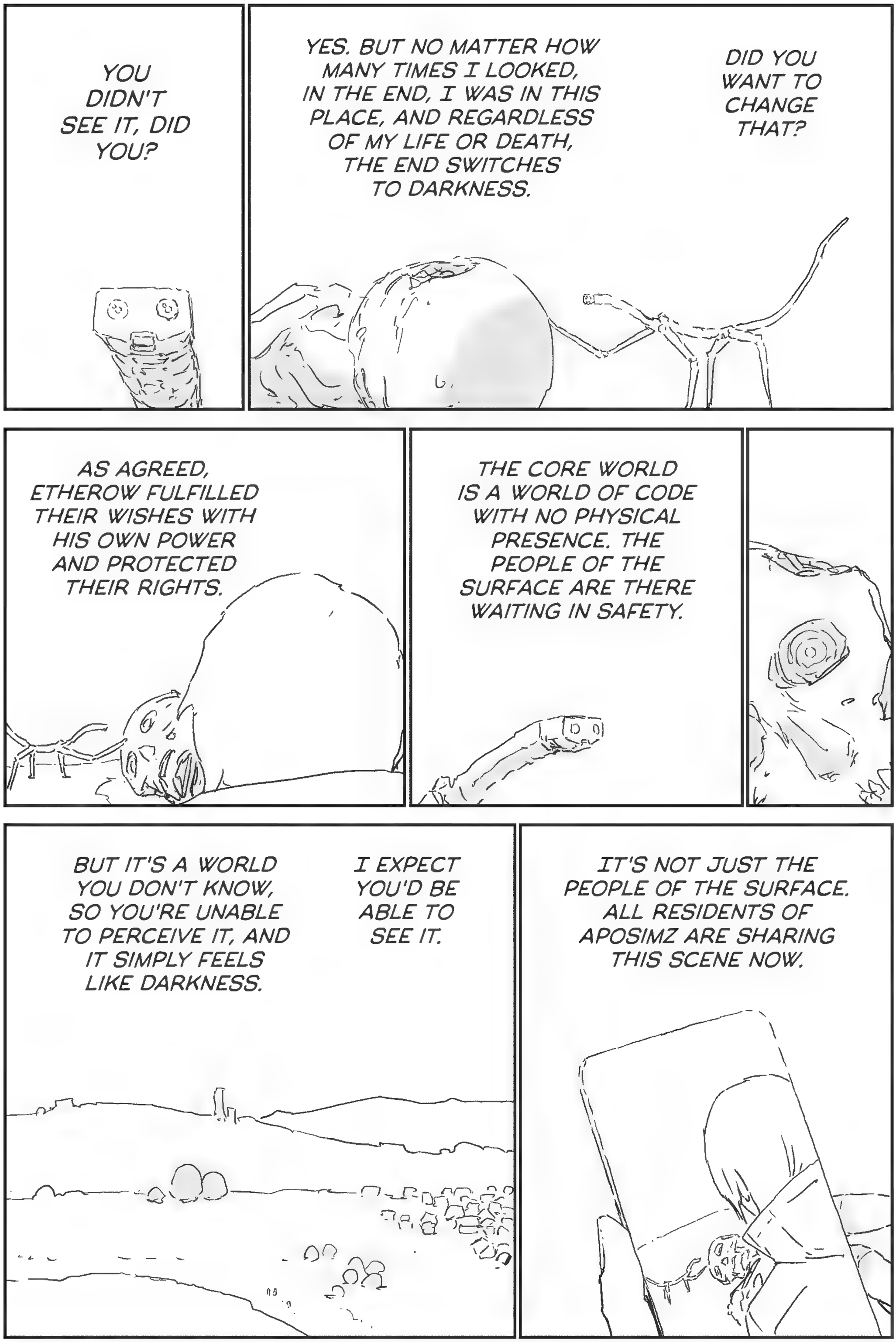




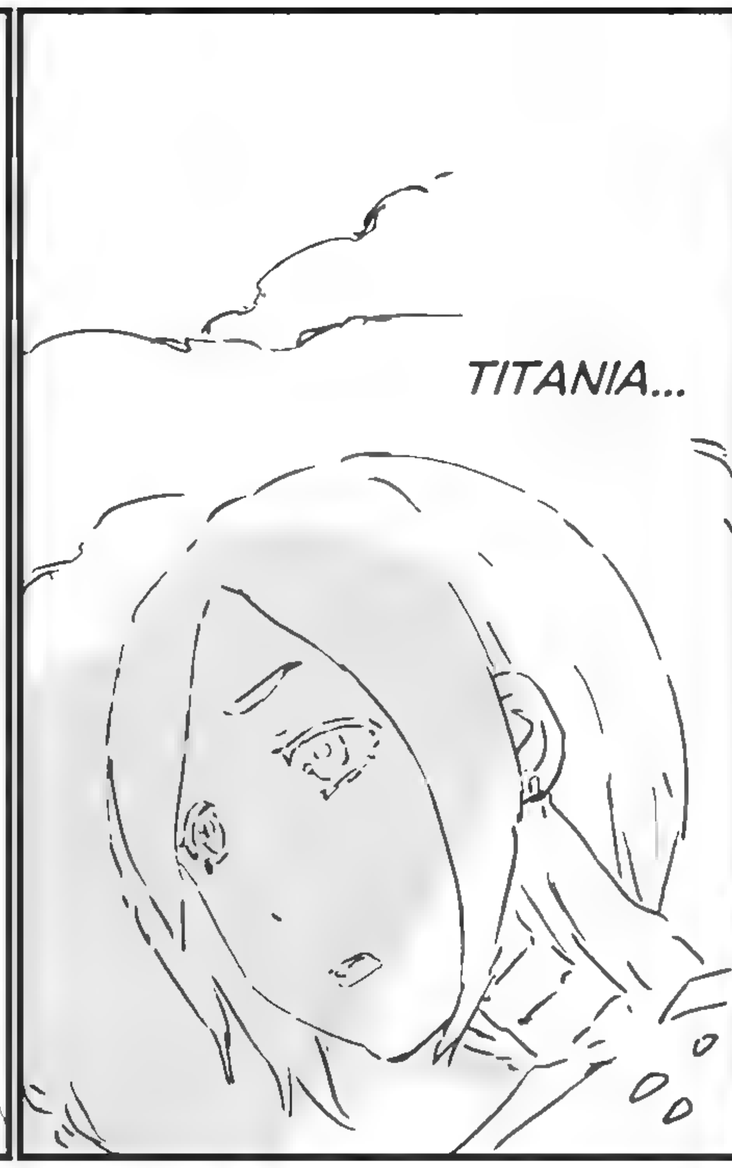


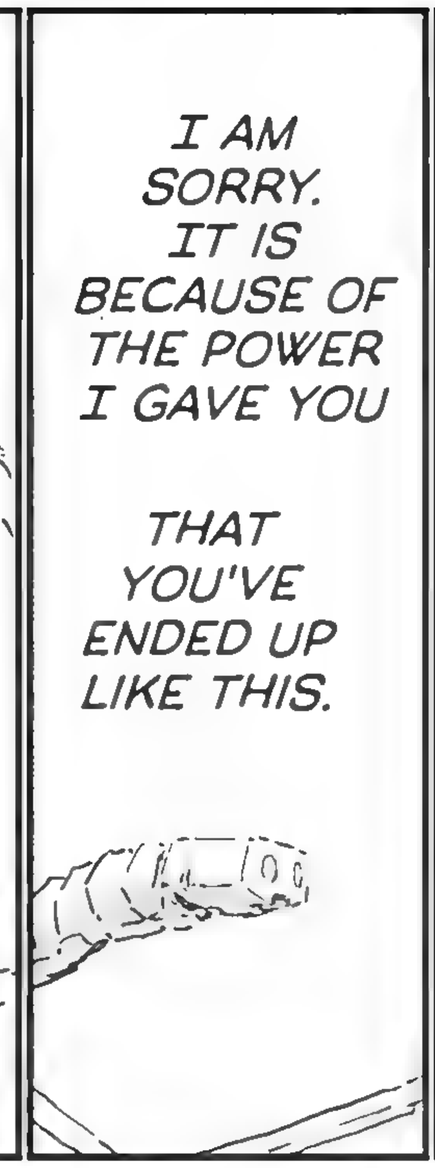

SPATCH

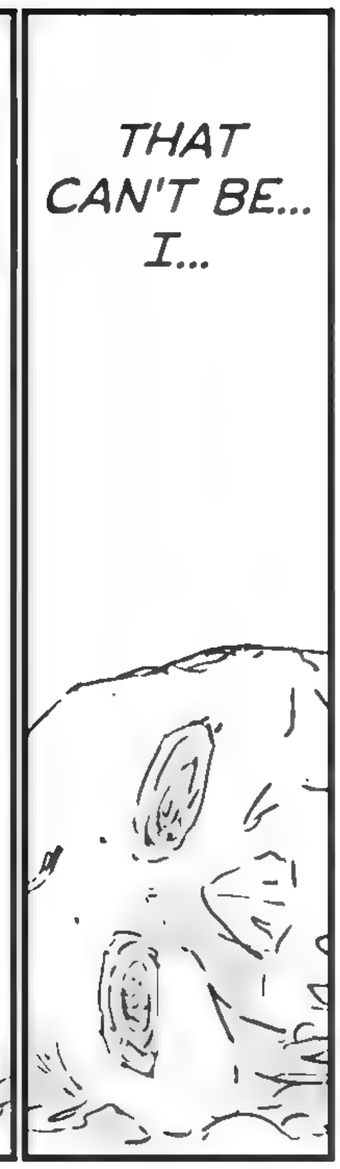

SO THIS IS HOW IT ALL ENDS?
YOU'D CHOOSE A DIFFERENT CANDIDATE,
THE FIRST FUTURE I SAW WAS THIS.
THAT DAY I SWORE TO BECOME APOSIMZ'S PROTECTOR
IT WAS A SCENE OF UNTHINK-ABLE TERROR.
AFTER THAT WAS PITCH BLACK DARKNESS ...
AND HE'D END UP KILLING ME.

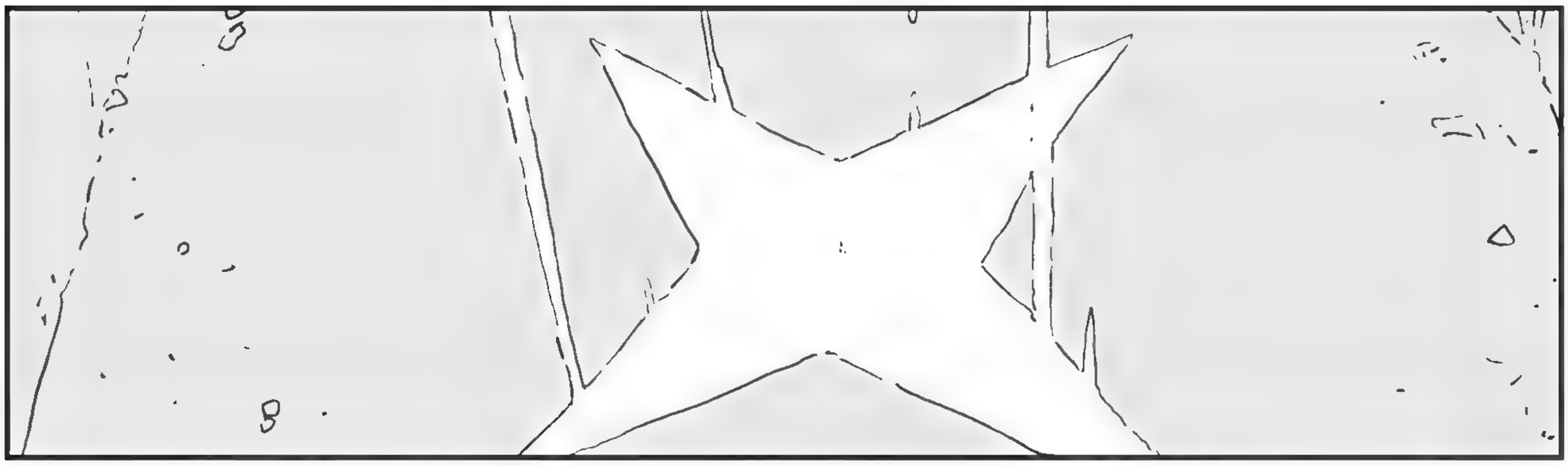

YOU DIDN'T SEE IT, DID YOU?
YES. BUT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I LOOKED, IN THE END, I WAS IN THIS PLACE, AND REGARDLESS OF MY LIFE OR DEATH, THE END SWITCHES TO DARKNESS.
DID YOU WANT TO CHANGE THAT?
AS AGREED, ETHEROW FULFILLED THEIR WISHES WITH HIS OWN POWER AND PROTECTED THEIR RIGHTS.
THE CORE WORLD IS A WORLD OF CODE WITH NO PHYSICAL PRESENCE. THE PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE ARE THERE WAITING IN SAFETY.
BUT IT'S A WORLD YOU DON'T KNOW, SO YOU'RE UNABLE TO PERCEIVE IT, AND IT SIMPLY FEELS LIKE DARKNESS.
I EXPECT YOU'D BE ABLE TO SEE IT.
IT'S NOT JUST THE PEOPLE OF THE SURFACE. ALL RESIDENTS OF APOSIMZ ARE SHARING THIS SCENE NOW.

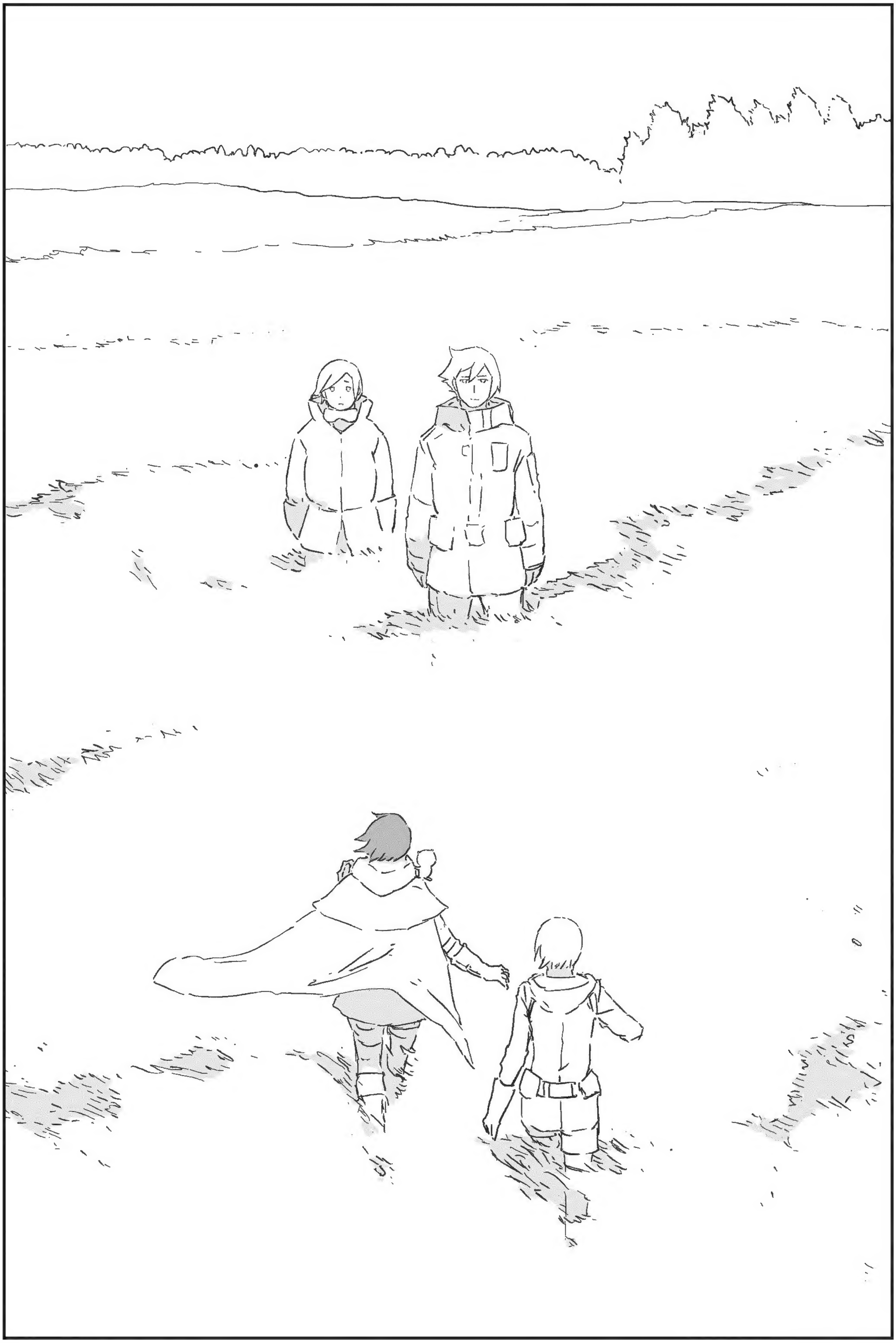
THAT WILL DO. GO TO SLEEP NOW... NICHIKO SUOU.


TITANIA...


I AM SORRY. IT IS BECAUSE OF THE POWER I GAVE YOU
THAT YOU'VE ENDED UP LIKE THIS.


THAT CAN'T BE... I...





APOSIMZ

END

APOSIMZ 9

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